MADRAS INFORMATION

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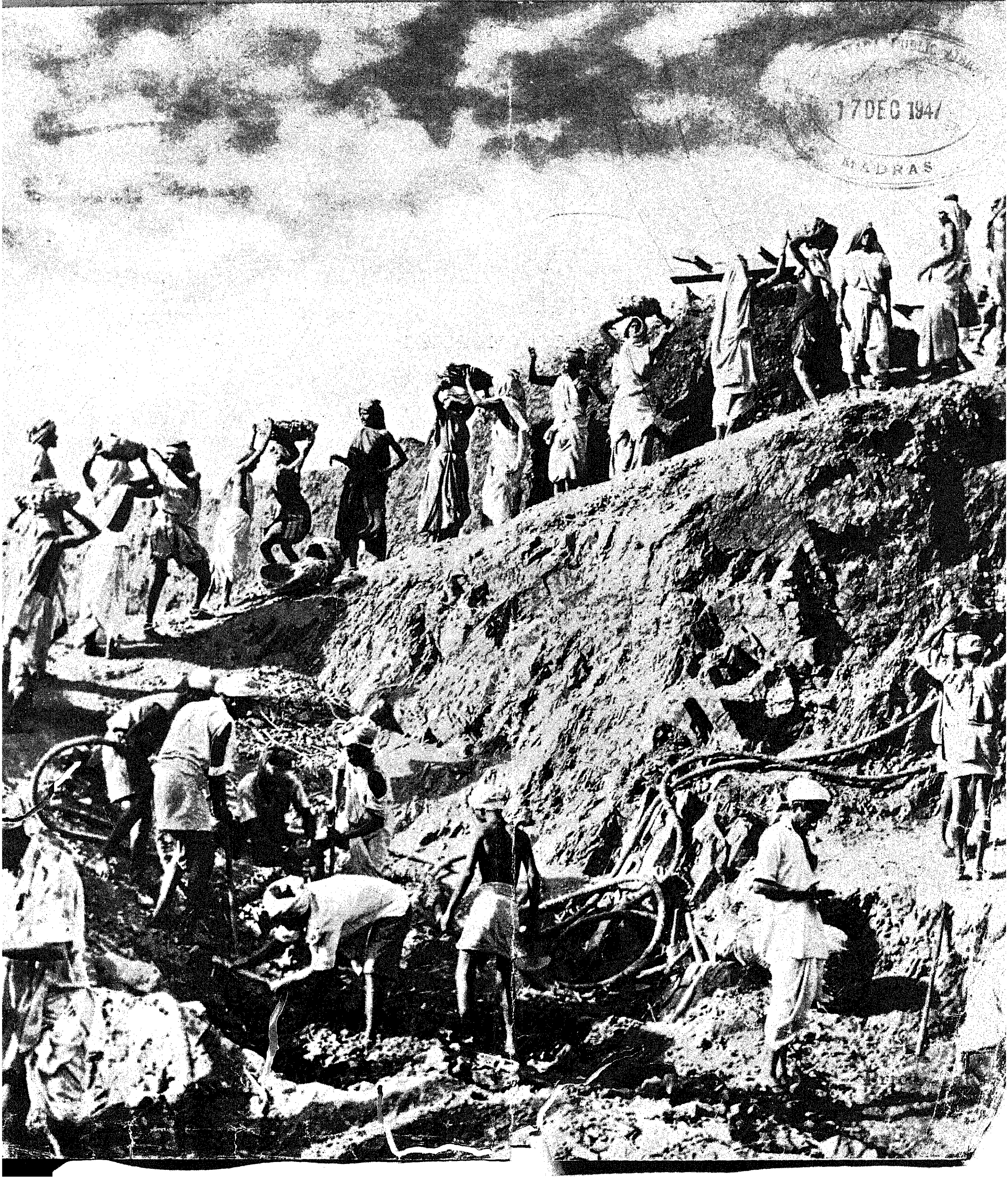

17 DEC 1947
MADRAS

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The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

Madras Information

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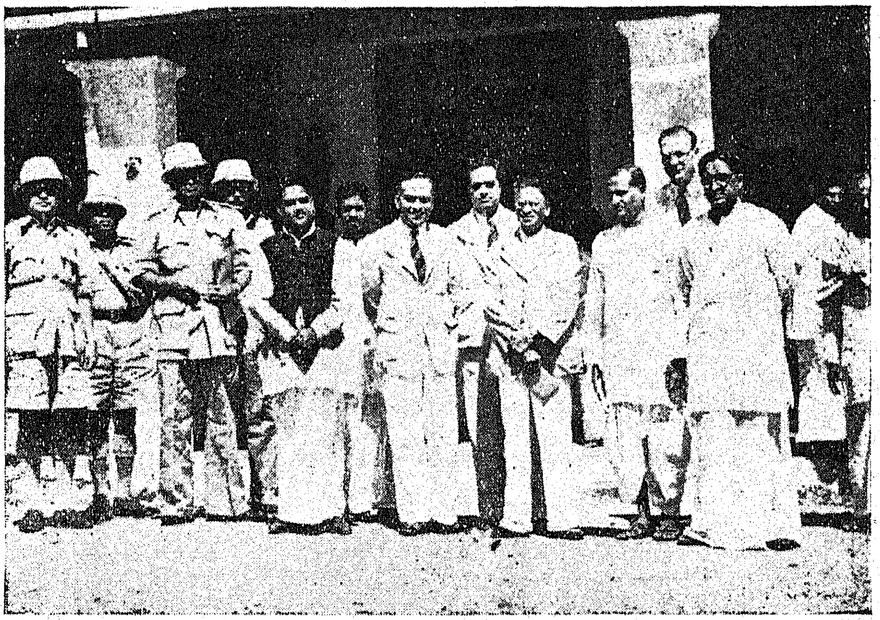
Vol. I, No. 26 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" December 15, 1947

Current Topics

Prohibition

The enthusiasm with which the extension of prohibition to eight more districts was welcomed by the masses on the 1st of October last, augurs well for the future and gives the lie to critics who have been condemning this measure as unwanted. Reports received show that in almost all the districts, the inauguration ceremony was elaborate. In the Nilgiris, the Badaga villagers and all other communities participated in the celebration. In Ootacamund, an effigy of 'drink demon' was taken in procession followed by school children displaying placards and shouting slogans on the 'evils of drink'. The effigy was later burnt. There were similar processions in other parts of the district. In South Kanara one feature of the inauguration was that some of the members of the Police and prohibition staff moved round the town in gaily decorated vans and lorries shouting slogans through megaphones and loud speakers. The food propaganda van was used for broadcasting speeches, on the occasion. Effigies of the 'drink demon' were taken in lorries and amidst shouts and cheers. A public meeting was also held at the end of which the effigies were burnt. In Tanjore, the inauguration ceremony was announced by the switching on the sirens in municipalities. In other places this was proclaimed by the ringing of bells in temples and churches and by the beating of trumpets and drums and blowing of bugles. Bajana parties led mostly by scavengers and Harijans were arranged in scores, and these went round in procession. Effigies of 'toddy demon' were burnt in several places. Physical exercises and demonstration, dramas and cinema shows constituted other salient features of the celebration. In Guntur, special services were conducted in churches and prayers were held in mosques and temples. The introduction of prohibition was announced through colourful posters on buses and other transport vehicles, and public conveyances. There was also a procession of school children and students of high schools. Placards showing 'no more toddy,' 'no more arrack,' 'save your drink money,' 'make your home happy,' 'banish misery,' etc., were carried in the procession. Lorries and buses were fitted with loud speakers. Prohibition songs were sung by girls. Poor-feeding, sports, public meeting, fancy dress competition were some of the other items. Similar interesting items are also reported from Trichinopoly. In Nellore, the advent of prohibition was proclaimed by beat of tom-tom, of drums and blowing of bugles in all towns and villages. Several processions were also taken out. A delightful programme of songs by children and a free dramatic performance were other important items.

Thus prohibition was ushered into being in all the new areas with a degree



The Hon'ble Minister for Prohibition attended a meeting at Salem to review the progress of prohibition in the district.

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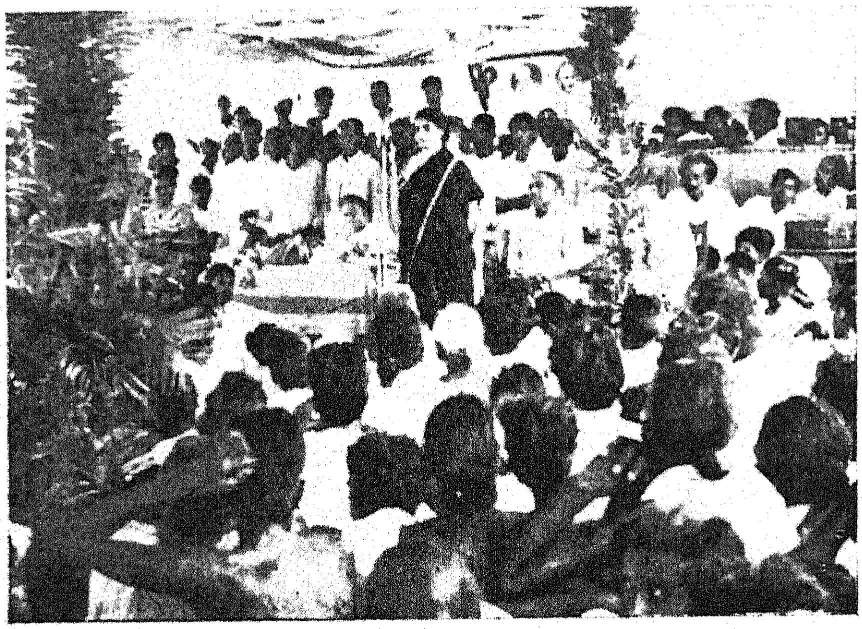

Mrs. Ammanna Raja, Deputy Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly, addressing a large gathering at Pullampatti, Salem district, on the occasion of the visit of the Hon'ble Minister for Prohibition to the village

of enthusiasm and public rejoicing which seems to be an earnest of its success. Public co-operation is one vital thing necessary for the success of prohibition and the amount of public enthusiasm displayed during the inaugurations show that the requisite amount of co-operation will be forthcoming to make prohibition an unqualified success. The success of prohibition will be an effective step towards economic rehabilitation and an example especially to the rest of the world.

The Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1946

According to section 3 (1) of the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1946, "every landlord, within seven days after the building becomes vacant by the landlord ceasing to occupy the building or by the termination of a tenancy should give notice thereof in writing to the Controller." The Act can be enforced only through the help of neighbours, who may know when a tenant has changed or when a house has fallen vacant. Despite the vigilance on the part of the officers, it has been found difficult to get sufficient evidence for prosecuting landlords in cases of violation.

This is the position in broad terms regarding the enforcement of Rent Control Act. It need hardly be pointed out that in order to secure prompt and meticulous obedience to any law or regulation, it is necessary that infringements thereof are discovered and promptly handled. Otherwise the usual consequence of the law becoming a dead-letter will follow and the purpose for which a salutary law has been formulated would be defeated. It is here exactly that the co-operation of the general public comes in for the enforcement of law. Citizenship involves not only rights but duties also and unless duties are discharged the question of the enjoyment of rights would become problematical. It is therefore incumbent on every citizen to co-operate with the Government in the enforcement of salutary laws. And in these critical times such co-operation has to be extended ungrudgingly. It is hoped that the required degree of public co-operation will be forthcoming in the matter of enforcement of the Rent Control Act.

Development of Sugar-cane Industry

Sugarcane is one of the important cash crops of the Presidency. The area under cultivation during the past decade has increased from 123,361 acres in 1935-36 to 160,700 acres in 1945-46—the latest figures available. About 75 per cent of the cane cultivated is utilized for the manufacture of jaggery. The Province is self-supporting so far as jaggery supply is concerned. The position of supply of white crystalline sugar is, however, different. Only about 10 per cent of the sugarcane grown is consumed by the sugar factories. The total quantity of sugar consumed in the Province in 1938-39 was 97,892 tons or roughly 100,000 tons. The annual production in 1938-39 was 31,738 tons. There was therefore a deficit in supply in 1938-39 to the extent of 66,154 tons. This quantity used to be mainly supplied by the other provinces in India. In planning for future development, provision has to be made for the increases in population and improvement in standard of living. It will therefore be necessary to increase the production of both jaggery and white crystalline sugar. Proposals are already under consideration to start a few new sugar factories and also increase the production capacity of some of the existing factories.

The object will therefore be to (*a*) increase the yield of sugarcane in areas cultivated round about the sugar factory and (*b*) increase the yield of sugarcane in jaggery-producing areas.

2. *Programme of work.*—The development work will be carried out in two ways as indicated below :—

(*a*) *By starting liaison farms.*—Four liaison farms will be opened in the vicinity of sugar factories at Samalkota in East Godavari district, Hospet in Bellary district, Nellikuppam in South Arcot district and Pugalur in Trichinopoly district. Each farm will be placed in direct charge of a Gazetted Officer, assisted by a technical staff consisting of two Farm Managers, two fieldmen and a unit of ministerial staff.

About 20 acres in the homefarm of the sugar factory or in its absence in the neighbourhood of the factory will be taken on lease. The results of research achieved at the Provincial Sugarcane Research Station will be tested on a field scale on these farms.

The main items of work on these farms will consist of—

(i) trial of promising varieties to test their suitability to the tract,

(ii) multiplication and sale of seed and material found suitable for the locality,

(iii) trial of manurial and cultural methods found profitable at the Provincial Sugarcane Research Stations,

(iv) trial of remedial measures against insect pests and fungus diseases, and

(v) classification of varieties as suitable for crushing in early and late seasons.

(*Continued on page* 11)

Resumé of Press Notes, Releases, etc.

Anti-corruption Drive

During the month of September 1947, corruption among Government servants was brought to notice against 187 persons. Of these 187, five were let off as the charges against them were not proved and proceedings against 168 were still pending at the end of the month. Corruption was successfully detected in the case of the remaining 14 persons and they were suitably punished.

[November 20]

Transfer of Officers

The Government have issued orders drawing the attention of all authorities empowered to direct postings of officers to the instructions issued in G.O. No. 334, Finance, dated 23rd October 1939, so as to eliminate all avoidable transfers especially transfers over long distances.

[November 20]

Women Vaccinators

The Government have commended to the local bodies the suggestion made by the Director of Public Health that one woman vaccinator should be employed in every district and in all municipalities having a population of 50,000 and above and that in districts having large gosha populations more women vaccinators should be employed according to their special needs.

[November 20]

Betting-tax enhancement

The rates of the tax in respect of the races at Guindy have been raised from 6¼ per cent to 12½ per cent and in respect of the races at Ootacamund, from 3½ per cent to 5 per cent. The enhanced rates have come into force from 19th November 1947.

[November 20]

Working of Trade Unions Act

The following are the important features of the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in this Province during the year 1946-47.

At the beginning of the year, there were 242 unions on the register. During the year, 174 unions were registered while the registration of 30 unions was cancelled. The total number of trade unions registered since the commencement of the Trade Unions Act up to 31st March 1947 was 563, of which 386 were actually on the register at the end of the year.

The membership of registered trade unions at the end of the year was 229,830 as against 171,083 at the beginning of the year, showing an increase of over 34 per cent. One hundred and nineteen unions availed themselves of the concession of the audit during the year.

Government are glad to observe that there was steady progress of trade unionism in the Province during the year under review.

[November 21]

Christmas holidays intervening, there will be no issue of *Madras Information* for the second half of December 1947. The next issue which will be dated 15th January 1948 will contain more pages.

Communal Ratio Revised

Under the existing rules, appointments in the public service to which recruitment is made on a communal basis are allocated among the various communities in the proportion specified below :—

Non-Brahmans (Hindus)—5 out of 12.
Brahmans—2 out of 12.
Muslims—2 out of 12.
Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians—2 out of 12.
Harijans—1 out of 12.

There has of late been considerable agitation from almost all sections of the general public that the above allocation which was decided upon years ago is quite unsuitable, that most of the vacancies assigned to the Non-Brahmans and Indian Christians go to the educationally more advanced members of those communities and that Harijans get very much less than what they are entitled to on the basis of their population in the Province. Individual members and Associations belonging to the Harijan community have also pointed out that while the Government of India have reserved 12½ per cent of vacancies to the Harijans in respect of posts under their control, the Government of Madras have no reason to stick to 8⅓ per cent. After a careful consideration of the claims of all communities, the Government have come to the conclusion that the existing allocation be changed as follows :—

Non-Brahman (Hindus)—6 out of 14.
Backward Hindu communities—2 out of 14.
Brahmans—2 out of 14.
Harijans—2 out of 14.
Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians—1 out of 14.
Muslims—1 out of 14.

The result of the revised allocation is that while the Harijans gain appreciably, Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians and Muslims lose likewise, but it must be realized that the revised allocation is roughly in conformity with the percentage of population of these communities in the Province and therefore in conformity with the decision of the Government of India on this subject.

2. Recruitment to some of the services and posts under the Government is made on a communal rotation basis. Consequent on the change in the reservations ordered in paragraph 1 above, it has become necessary to change the order in which appointments by rotation are to be made. The Government have decided to change the order of rotation as shown below in every cycle of 14 vacancies :—

1. Non-Brahman (Hindu).
2. Harijan.
3. Backward Hindu.
4. Non-Brahman (Hindu).
5. Brahman.
6. Non-Brahman (Hindu).
7. Muslim.
8. Non-Brahman (Hindu).
9. Anglo-Indian or Indian Christian.
10. Non-Brahman (Hindu).
11. Harijan.
12. Non-Brahman (Hindu).
13. Brahman.
14. Backward Hindu.

3. The revision of the rule of communal representation ordered in paragraphs 1 and 2 above will come into force immediately. In the case of communal rotation, the order will start afresh. The fresh start will be made with the first vacancy arising after the date of issue of this Press Note and will begin at the first turn, viz., Non-Brahman (Hindu).

[November 21]

Boiler Position in 1946-47

The number of boilers on the registers of the Madras Province, Coorg, and Bangalore Civil and Military Stations at the end of the year under notice was 3,278, 12 and 34 respectively. There was an increase of 84 boilers in the Madras Province over the number for the previous year. The total number of registered boilers in the Madras Province alone up to the end of the year under review was 3,201. Fifty boilers were registered, 49 in the Madras Province and 1 in Coorg during the year. Of the 49 boilers registered in the Madras Province, 40 were new ones—36 imported from England, 1 from America and 3 from Africa and the remaining 9 were imported from the Indian State territories.

2. The total number of boilers examined, inspections made and certificates issued during the year under review is 1,740, 3,018 and 1,542 respectively. The examination of 22 boilers was refused under section 14 (2) of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923, as against 17 boilers in the previous year, due to the boilers not having been prepared for inspection in the manner prescribed under the Indian Boiler Regulations. The total number of boilers with defects that rendered them unfit for working at the maximum pressure, during the year under review was 113.

3. *Accidents to boilers.*—The total number of accidents to boilers during the year under report was 24 as against 30 in the previous year. Though the number of accidents for this year was less than that of the last year, the necessity for increase in the number of visits for checking up of boilers is still indicated. Bulges and collapse of flue rings and bulges in shells of a few boilers were among the more serious of the accidents. Large number of these accidents could have been prevented by owners employing competent and certified boiler attendants and by more cursory inspections which at present are not possible due to shortage of inspection. Government are considering the formulation of rules under section 29 (*d*) of the Indian Boilers Act, requiring persons in charge of boilers to be in possession of certificates of competency.

4. The net receipts and expenditure of this department for the year under review were Rs. 77,364, and Rs. 87,149 as against Rs. 74,781 and Rs. 80,968 respectively in the previous year.

5. The number of new boilers imported showed a considerable increase over any previous year and still a wide demand exists for more new boilers. Owing to the inability of the supply to meet the immediate demand, many owners brought in boilers from other Provinces, most of which required reconditioning and repairs.

[November 21]

Petrol Rationing

The Government have issued a notification that no ordinary or basic coupon issued for motor cars and motor cycles under the Motor Spirit Rationing Order, 1941, shall be valid with effect on and from 26th November 1947, unless it is endorsed by one of the officers mentioned below and a coupon so endorsed shall be valid only for the quantity specified in the said endorsement.

Any person who is lawfully holding any such coupon may apply to one of the aforesaid officers for endorsement thereon and produce before him a certificate of registration of the vehicle in respect of which the coupon has been issued.

The officers empowered to endorse coupons are—

The Commissioner of Police; the Deputy Commissioner (Traffic and Licensing); Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic and Licensing); Madras Taluk Head Accountants or Sub-Magistrates specified in Schedule 'A' to the Home Department Notification No. 1430, dated 21st October 1947; the Area Rationing Officers, and any other Officer who may be appointed in this behalf by the Government of Madras. [November 25]

Cement distribution in Madras

During the war, the Government of India had imposed control on the price and distribution of cement under the Defence of India Rules and appointed Regional Honorary Cement Advisers to administer the scheme. Although the legal provisions made by the Government of India expired on 30th September 1946, the administrative arrangements connected with the scheme were continued in this Province by the Government of India, with the agreement of the Government of Madras. Frequent complaints have since been received by the Government of Madras against the existing system which had no legal support. After examining these complaints, they have decided to take over the existing administrative arrangements for distribution and to place the whole scheme on a legal basis under the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946 (Madras Act XIV of 1946). They have accordingly appointed the present Regional Honorary Cement Advisers to the Government of India at Madras and Coimbatore as Honorary Cement Controllers of the Government of Madras for the areas shown below:—

Honorary Cement Controller—

1. Sri R. R. Varma, No. 199, Mount Road, Madras.

Area (Districts)—

(1) Chingleput, (2) Madras City, (3) South Arcot, (4) North Arcot, (5) Chittoor, (6) Nellore, (7) Cuddapah, (8) Kurnool, (9) Anantapur, (10) Bellary, (11) Guntur, (12) Kistna, (13) West Godavari, (14) East Godavari and (15) Vizagapatam.

2. Sri A. Shanmugam, No. 33, Avanashi Road, Coimbatore.

Area (Districts)—

(1) South Kanara, (2) Malabar, (3) Tinnevelly, (4) Ramnad, (5) Madura, (6) Tanjore, (7) Trichinopoly, (8) Salem, (9) Coimbatore and (10) The Nilgiris.

Unauthorized sale or purchase of cement, or sale of cement above the controlled price will be an offence under Madras Act XIV of 1946. Registered dealers will, however, be authorized by the Controller to sell cement in small quantities up to 5 bags to each *bona fide* consumer after satisfying themselves regarding the genuineness of the demand. Applications for larger quantities of cement should be sent to the Honorary Cement Controllers of the respective areas, preferably through the Collectors, District Agricultural Officers, District Industrial Officers or other District Officers, as the case may be, according to the purpose for which the cement is required. These officers will forward *bona fide* applications to the Controllers concerned with their recommendations, for the issue of permits.

It is not the intention of the Government at present to set up a new organization for cement control. What they have done now is to clothe the existing machinery, which had been giving fair satisfaction during the war period, with legal authority to function. The Government will watch the result of its operations for some time before considering drastic changes.

[November 27]

Government Stationery Department in 1945–46

The total value of English articles obtained from the India Office, London, during 1945–46 was Rs. 25,549 as against Rs. 1,20,698 during 1944–45. The value of country papers purchased from the Indian mills during 1945–46 is Rs. 12,00,649 as against Rs. 13,01,609 during 1944–45. The value of country-made miscellaneous articles purchased locally during 1945–46 is Rs. 1,81,673 as against Rs. 2,58,896 during 1944–45.

The value of English stores purchased locally during 1945–46 was Rs. 3,01,312 as against Rs. 2,75,919 during 1944–45. The total value of issues in respect of different kinds of articles supplied by the Stationery Office during 1945–46 was Rs. 21,64,875 as against Rs. 21,56,414 during 1944–45. The value of English and Indian stores in stock and purchased by the Stationery Office during 1945–46 is Rs. 38,34,639. The value of the stationery articles issued to various departments during 1945–46 was Rs. 21,53,458 as against Rs. 21,48,531 during 1944–45.

There has been a fall in prices during 1945–46 also. [November 26]

Film declared uncertified

The Government of Madras have directed that the film entitled " Arab-Ka-Sitara " produced by the Roshan Pictures shall be deemed to be an uncertified film in the whole of the Province of Madras.

[November 26]

Refugee Relief

Out of a total of 718 refugees, who have arrived in the city up to November 22, 608 are in the camps run by the Government.

During the week ending November 22, 1947, 15 South Indian refugees from Karachi were received by the special staff and sent to their native places, after having been provided with railway tickets, pocket money and clothes. Out of the 608 refugees, 96 are in the Malayan Emigration Depot, Avadi, 44 in the Holiday Home, Saidapet and 468 in the Lutteral's Garden Camp, Kilpauk.

[November 26]

Regional Language—Stressed

The Government have directed that the regional language should be the first language in future and English the second language in the S.S.L.C. scheme.

It may be pointed out that English was hitherto regarded as first language in the secondary schools and the regional language as the second language. In order to give the languages of the province their proper place in the scheme of studies for secondary education, it was considered that the regional language should be the first language and English the second language. The Board of Secondary Education and the Provincial Advisory Board of Education which were consulted in the matter, have agreed to the proposal.

Necessary amendments to the S.S.L.C. scheme with reference to this change will be issued after the revised curriculum of studies is approved. In the meantime, the revised classification should be adopted in the question papers to be set for the S.S.L.C. examination and for class examinations in the current years.

[November 26]

Production of food crops

In view of the present food situation in the province, the Government desire that ryots should put every acre of land possible under essential food crops like paddy. The Government will provide facilities to ryots to the extent possible by way of seeds, manures, etc. In order to prevent any increase in the acreage under commercial crops, the Government have decided to stop all supplies of manures and fertilizers to such crops. If the ryots divert their lands under paddy to non-food crops like tobacco, cotton and groundnut or even to less essential crops like sugarcane and plantains, they will be disqualified for any assistance or facilities from Government.

[November 27]

Forfeiture of publications

The Government have declared to be forfeited every copy, wherever found, of the English booklet entitled " Police Terror Against Malabar Kisans " printed by M. B. Rao, New Age Printing Press, 190-B, Khetwadi Main Road, Bombay : 4, and published by him for the People's Publishing House, Limited, 190-B, Khetwadi Main Road, Bombay : 4, and all other documents containing copies, or translations of the booklet.

The Government have declared to be forfeited every copy, wherever found, of the Malayalam book entitled " Moplahstan " printed at the Cochin Mail Press, Ernakulam, and published at the Al-Jihad Publishing House, Mattancherry, Cochin, and all other documents containing copies of translations of the booklet.

[November 27]

Firka Development Committees

With a view to devising ways and means to implement the Government's Firka Development Scheme, the Government of Madras have directed that a Firka Development Committee be formed in each of the firkas and centres selected for intensive rural reconstruction work.

[November 29]

Burma Beans

The Government of India have consented to the export of these beans outside this province provided the stockholders obtain import permits from the administrations to which areas they propose to export the beans. The stockholders who desire to export the beans outside the province are therefore advised to obtain import permits from the Governments of the Provinces or States to which they desire to export the beans and address the Collectors of the districts in this province, where their stocks lie, for permission to export. On receipt of these applications, the Collectors will arrange to release the quantity mentioned in the import permit from the freezing order and permit export within a specified time which would be one month normally. If the export is not made within that time and if there is any reason to believe that the released stocks are made use of in some form or other in this province itself the stocks will be frozen again under the Public Health Act. [November 29]

Ban on Telugu Book Lifted

The Government of Madras have directed that the ban imposed in their Order, dated the 24th August 1938, on the Telugu book entitled " The 1922 Ryot Revolt in Manyam (Alluri Sitarama Raju) " and published by A. Kameswara Rao, be lifted.

[November 29]

Papanasam Labourers demand

Some of the labourers employed on construction work at the Papanasam Hydro-Electric Scheme had to be disbanded recently on account of completion of certain works. The remaining muster roll labourers have therefore gone on strike from 19th November. They demand that they should be made permanent and that they should be paid higher rates of wages irrespective of the prevailing rates. Government have examined their demands and informed them that since construction works are temporary most of the labourers engaged on them have necessarily to be employed on a temporary basis and that Government do not see sufficient reason to depart from their general policy of paying workers at the prevailing market rates for similar labour in the locality. The labourers on strike have also been advised to return to work. [November 29]

Leaflet restored

The Government have cancelled the forfeiture order on the leaflet entitled "The Tragedy of India" commencing with the words "To the People of the U.S.A." and ending with the words "Published by the Hindustan Gader Party," published at San Francisco, United States of America, by Edward Gammons. [November 27]

Village Panchayat Courts in 1946

During 1946, the number of Panchayat Courts constituted was 4,394. The number of courts that exercised jurisdiction was 3,121 and the number of suits tried by these courts was 41,733. The corresponding figures for 1938 are 4 584, 4,205, and 184,868 respectively. There was a steady fall both in the number of courts that exercised jurisdiction and in the number of suits for disposal since 1939. The number of members of Panchayat Courts who were removed from office for failure to attend more than five consecutive meetings during 1946 was 4, and the number of members who were removed for misconduct, incapacity or neglect of duty was 2, as against 79 and 23, respectively in 1941.

The working of the village courts which were functioning was generally satisfactory. [November 27]

Index Figure

During the week ended 22nd November 1947, the index number of cost of living for working classes in Madras City remained stationary at 285.

[November 11]

Board of Film Censors

The Government of Madras have reconstituted the Board of Film Censors with 20 members for the purpose of examining and certifying films as suitable for public exhibition in the Madras Province. The term of office of the non-official members of the Board will be one year from the 8th December 1947. [November 29]

Cashewnut Roaster

As a result of extensive trials made in the Experimental Section attached to the Government Industrial Engineering Workshops, the Department of Industries and Commerce has evolved an improved cashewnut roaster suitable for operation on a Cottage Industry basis. This roaster not only roasts the cashewnuts satisfactorily but also extracts a fair proportion of the cashewnut oil in the outer shells. In addition, the objectionable fumes which are ordinarily emitted in the process of roasting the nuts are burnt away in this roaster and the usual pungent and irritating smell associated with the roasting of cashewnut is entirely eliminated.

The standard model is about 6 feet long over all, 18½" wide and 2' 6" high to the base of chimney and it has been found to be capable of roasting 500 to 600 lb. of cashewnuts in a day of eight working hours. Two men are required for the operation of the roaster excluding the labour required for splitting the roasted nuts. The cost of making a roaster of the above size is estimated to be about Rs. 350.

[December 2]

Ban on Ballad Lifted

The Government of Madras have directed that the ban imposed in their order, dated 15th April 1922, on the Telugu ballad, captioned "We do not want this white Government" and written by Garmilla Satyanarayana, be lifted. [December 3]

Restriction lifted on Unirrigated Groundnut and Tobacco

With a view to increase the area under pulses, the Government prohibited, in their order, dated, 13th October 1944, the cultivation of tobacco except as a mixed crop with at least one row of a pulse crop all round the tobacco crop of each field or portion of a field and the cultivation of unirrigated groundnut in certain districts, except as a mixed crop with one line of redgram for not more than 11 lines of the spreading or bunch variety of groundnut. As these crop restrictions have not materially added to the food supply, but have only increased the ryots' problems in respect of crop rotation, the Government of Madras have ordered that these restrictions be removed.

[December 3]

Leaflet Forfeited

The Government of Madras have declared forfeit all copies, wherever found, of an anonymous leaflet in Hindi beginning with the words "*15th August to the Hindu Ministers, Officers*" and ending with "*to drown yourself in a pot of water*" and containing a picture of naked women taken in procession and all other documents containing copies or translations of, or extracts or reproduction from, the said leaflet.

[December 3]

Cost of Living Index

The cost of living index number for working classes in Madras City for November 1947 was 285.

The index for the food group rose by five points to 515 due mainly to an increase in the prices of vegetables, meat and garlic.

The index for the fuel and lighting group rose by one point to 291 due to an increase in the price of charcoal.

The index for the clothing group rose by fifteen points to 330 due to an increase in the prices of dhoties and sarees.

The index for the miscellaneous group rose by one point to 259 due to a increase in the charges for shaving.

The index for house-rent remained stationary at 161.

[December 3]

News and Notes from outside

Assam Hills and Plains people's Week

The Assam Hills and Plains People's Week which was opened in Shillong on the 5th November 1947 concluded after a week. Both the Patrons of the Week, His Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble the Premier made speeches at the opening ceremony in which they paid warm tributes to all the voluntary helpers who have worked hard to make the Week a success. Everyday thousands of spectators including the tribal delegates in their colourful dresses visited the Exhibition grounds where plains and tribal dances were performed and stalls demonstrating Assamese Art and Industry were opened.

Four hundred and thirty-four delegates from different parts of the Province, e.g., the Naga Hills, Lushai Hills, Garo Hills, Manipur State, Tirap Frontier Tract, Sadiya Frontier Tract, Balipara Frontier Tract and Jowai arrived on the occasion.

His Excellency Sir Akbar Hydari, Lady Hydari and the Hon'ble the Premier received the tribal delegates at Government House on the 8th November, when a film was taken and Tribal songs were recorded. The Members of the Assam Assembly met the delegates at a Tea Party on the 9th November, at the Assembly quadrangle, which was attended by the Governor, Lady Hydari, Hon'ble the Premier and Hon'ble Ministers.

About twenty stalls were opened at the Exhibition site and the demonstrations given at the Sericulture and Weaving sections attracted great attention. The improved processes of endi rearing, spinning, etc., the life circle of a silk worm were demonstrated in the Sericulture section. It was pointed out that in 1937–38, 30,031 bundles of mulberry cuttings were supplied to growers of the Province by the Sericulture Branch. The number increased to 188,708 bundles in 1946. Again in 1937–38, 105,287 layings were supplied to mulberry silk growers of the Province. The number increased to 320,405 in 1946, testifying to the fact that sericulture is becoming a popular cottage industry in the Province.

Bombay Government's Rs. 7½ Crore housing programme

The Government of Bombay have generally approved the recommendations of the Provincial Housing Advisory Committee in respect of the fixing for all the industrial towns in the Province, of a target of 125,000 tenements to be completed in five years, the target including tenements constructed by all agencies—Government, Government-aided and private enterprise and have sanctioned, subject to certain conditions, the programme of constructing 15,000 tenements by the Government, in a period of five years at a cost of Rs. 7½ crores.

Co-operative house building societies will also be aided financially to the extent of Rs. 50 lakhs.

* * *

Prohibition in Bombay

Speaking at a public meeting organized in connexion with the launching of the prohibition programme in Bombay, the Excise Minister referred to the progressive deterioration of the economic and social life of the people since the early days of British rule in India and said that the deleterious effects of toddy and other intoxicants had made physical wrecks of many of them. The same evil had plunged them into debt and turned them into serfs of others, he added.

Appealing for the enthusiastic co-operation of all, the Excise Minister said that Prohibition was not the whim or mid-summer madness of any single group or party but it had been supported by all political parties in the Legislature and adopted as a programme. Therefore, it deserved the whole-hearted support of everyone in the Province.

* * *

Scholarships for backward classes

The Bombay Government have sanctioned the institution with effect from 1st November 1947, of 50 new sets of middle school scholarships of the value of Rs. 6 per mensem tenable for three years for backward classes.

Hospitals' improvement

The Government of Bihar have constituted a committee to look into the question of improving the conditions of hospitals in the Province and providing increased and better accommodation and treatment.

* * *

Co-operative organizers

For the period ending June 30, 1948, the Government of Bombay have appointed sixty District Honorary Organizers of Co-operative Societies in the three divisions of the Province.

* * *

Prohibition Propaganda

In the coming Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, Bombay, the Provincial Prohibition Board has taken a big stall to popularize prohibition plan.

A number of oil paintings depicting the evils of alcoholism and other posters some of which have been prepared by the J. J. School of Art will be exhibited. Very interesting statistics are interpreted in the form of graphs to enlighten the public on the various economic aspects of the problem. Books and pamphlets on prohibition will also be on sale.

* * *

Bombay Regulation regarding school sites

In view of the emphasis now laid on the physical activities and games and simple agriculture in the form of kitchen gardening in schools, the Government of Bombay have laid down the minimum area of a site required for a school building and a playground on the basis of the number of children in the school, for the guidance of the District Building Committees and District Local Boards.

* * *

Harijans enter the Pandharpur Temple

The Harijans and other so-called untouchables have entered the Vitobha Temple and this is considered an important landmark in the history of social emancipation in this country.

The Vitobha Temple at Pandharpur is one of the biggest temples in Maharashtra and a great centre of pilgrimage. It is estimated that over a lakh and a half devotees, popularly known as Warkaris were in the town for the "Kartiki Ekadasi" fair.

* * *

Importance of Physical Education

His Excellency the Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar emphasized in a speech recently the importance of physical education in independent India. The Governor inaugurating the physical education week said that the need for physical education must be fully realized if free India was to maintain her greatness.

He observed further that Russia was a model in the sphere of physical education. He suggested that all provinces should have a college for physical culture, where boys and girls should be made to undergo a physical fitness test before obtaining their degrees. Bombay already has such an institution and other provinces could make a start without delay.

* * *

A Bombay Act

A Bombay Government Gazette has notified that the Bill to entitle Harijans to enter and perform worship in temples in the Province of Bombay has received the assent of the Governor-General. The Act, therefore, becomes operative in the Province with immediate effect.

* * *

Honorary Grow More Food Commissioner for Bihar

The Bihar Government have appointed Pandit Girish Tewari, M.L.A., as an Honorary Grow More Food Commissioner. His duties will be to tour the districts and to do propaganda among the villagers in order to popularize the Grow More Food Campaign and to explain what was being done for them by the Provincial Government. He will also verify the figures submitted by the Agriculture Department.

* * *

Panchayat Schemes for Delhi Villages

A scheme to establish 11 panchayat ghars (each panchayat ghar to include at least a group of ten villages) for 110 villages of Delhi Province is understood to have been discussed recently by the Delhi Development Board.

A rural development organizer, it is gathered, will be appointed to control and supervise the work of each panchayat ghar. He will also introduce various schemes of development, such as the establishment of first-aid centres.

* * *

Plans to end Racing in Calcutta

The West Bengal Government propose to stop racing in Calcutta in 1953. Meanwhile, an attempt will be made to increase the provincial revenues either by raising the present betting tax or by imposing a licence fee on the Royal Calcutta Turf Club and the Tollygunge Gymkhana.

Before submitting his final proposals for the consideration of the Cabinet, Mr. Chowdhury, Finance Minister, is ascertaining the views of the Club and the Gymkhana in the matter.

The five-year period of grace before racing is abolished is considered necessary by the Government to enable the Club to liquidate their assets, liabilities and other commitments.

Representatives of the two organizations are reported to have expressed the view that the period to be given to the organizations to enable them to liquidate their commitments should be between 10 and 20 years in view of the very large interests, such as land and property, breeding centres, etc., involved.

With regard to the proposal to raise additional revenue from racing the representatives affirmed that the Club and the Gymkhana were not making any profit now but were being run merely for the sport of racing. Almost the entire income of the two organizations went into Government coffers as income, super and other taxes. If the Provincial Government now imposed a licence fee or increased the betting tax, it would merely result in a proportionate loss to central revenues.

* * *

Separate Department for Harijans

The U.P. Government will very soon open a separate department for Harijan uplift. This fact was mentioned by the Minister of Excise recently addressing the second day session of the Benares District Harijan Conference.

The Minister emphasized the need for unity, literacy and temperance and said that if the Harijans gave up the habit of drinking and devoted their time to learning, all the ills of their society would disappear and they would no more be looked down upon by others.

* * *

Elections to Municipalities

After careful consideration the Government of Bombay has come to the conclusion that the cumulative system of voting which is followed for elections to all municipalities in the Province except Ahmedabad and Ghatkopar-Kirol has outlived its usefulness and that it should be replaced by the distributive system of voting.

* * *

Training in Weaving of Hand-spun Yarn

The Government of Bombay has approved the Village Industries Committee's revised scheme for training 40 persons in the weaving of hand-spun yarn by the institution Gandhi Kutir, Karadi in Surat district, and organizing 1,000 spinners in 5 units of 200 spinners each with a view to obtain a regular supply of hand-spun yarn for the weavers and has sanctioned a grant-in-aid of Rs. 18,200 to the Village Industries Committee for conducting the scheme during the current year.

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Horse-Racing Banned in East Bengal

The Premier of East Bengal stated that the Government had decided to put an end to horse-racing. After March 31, there would be no more racing.

* * *

Trial of Corrupt Officials

The Government of the United Provinces will soon have an 'Administrative Tribunal' to deal with cases of corruption, failure to discharge duties properly, irremediable general inefficiency in a public servant of more than 10 years' standing, and personal immorality of Government servants. The disciplinary proceedings (Rules governing the tribunal) which have already come into effect on November 8 apply to all Government servants under the rule-making control of the Governor. The tribunal will consist of two members and is empowered to co-opt an assessor to assist it. The tribunal will tour the Province and its proceedings will be held *in camera*. Neither the prosecution nor the defence will

have the right of representation by counsel. In addition to or as an alternative to the punishments defined in the Civil Service Rules, the tribunal may also recommend compulsory retirement without allowance. During or before the proceedings of the tribunal the delinquent official may be suspended subject to the ordinary rules.

* * *

Extension of Co-operation in East Bengal

The network of co-operative societies in the Province, approximately amounting to about 4,000, which are mostly credit societies giving agricultural loans and the like to cultivators, may now have their scope of activities enlarged. The East Bengal Government contemplate converting them into multi-purpose organizations and thereby cater to the essential needs of the tiller of the soil without any exploitation as at present, at the hands of private individuals and traders. This would at the same time, it is pointed out, provide employment to the surplus agricultural population, whom the land—due to excessive pressure—cannot support. The activities of such bodies will not be standardized but will cover the entire economic field according to the peculiar needs of the locality regarding a particular commodity or article.

Mr. Afzal, Minister in charge of the departments of Co-operation and Agriculture, said that there were immense possibilities for the development of the co-operative movement, which until now was confined only to giving loans to cultivators. He pointed out that the aim of the co-operative movement was co-operation as opposed to competition —in the fields, production, marketing and purchase of commodities by the growers, producers and cultivators.

The Minister also dwelt on the desirability of conducting the production and marketing of rice and jute, which were the two main crops, through co-operative societies, in which case the poor cultivators, he said will get the maximum return for their labour, and their living standard will necessarily improve. He said that at present, the middlemen get about Rs. 30 and 40 crores annually from transactions in rice and jute respectively. If there are co-operative societies in rural areas these huge sums will go to the growers themselves, he said.

It has long been felt in official circles that to bring the cultivators up to any level of prosperity the middlemen, the village usurer, must be eliminated and the co-operative societies pressed into service for supplying agriculturists with an organization which would be elastic enough to undertake activities in various directions connected with rural economy. It has also been decided that schemes for agricultural improvement should have a co-operative basis and it will be recalled that the two departments of Agriculture and Co-operation which were formerly separate have been amalgamated under the same Minister.

* * *

Prison Reform in West Bengal

The West Bengal Government proposes to amend the Bengal Jail Code Manual on 'progressive lines.' An officer has been appointed to suggest amendments, which will be placed before a Jail Code Revision Sub-Committee to be formed to help the Government in reforming the jail administration. The Sub-Committee will consist of both officials and non-officials.

The Government have decided to withdraw the ban on Indians being appointing jailors of the Presidency and Alipore Central Jails, where such posts have hitherto been reserved for Europeans only.

The Government's Jail reform programme includes introduction of compulsory primary education in jails and the setting up of industries where prisoners may be taught crafts and profitably employed. There is also a plan to establish children's industrial homes to supplement the existing Borstal School.

* * *

Development of Indian Shipping

The Central Government propose to secure the entire coastal trade and reasonable shares of the overseas trade for Indian shipping in accordance with the recommendations of the Reconstruction Policy Sub-Committee on Shipping. Before Indian shipping can participate, however, in other trades and meet the entire coastal requirements, Indian tonnage must increase sufficiently and the Government are at present considering certain proposals for the rapid acquisition, on a joint State-cum-private ownership basis, of additional tonnage.

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Ten Technical High Schools in Bombay.

The Government of Bombay have accorded administrative approval to the opening at a cost of nearly sixty-five lakhs of rupees of 10 more Technical High Schools in addition to the existing 2 Technical High Schools maintained by Government at Bombay and Sholapur so that there should be one Technical High School for every two districts of the Province. The schools would be opened with Standards I to IV in the first year and higher standards would be added in subsequent years so that they are full High Schools within four years.

* * *

Bombay Rural Medical Scheme

In view of the acute shortage of qualified medical practitioners for appointment as Subsidised Medical Practitioners, the Government of Bombay have sanctioned, with effect from December 1, 1947, the grant of revised rates of subsidy to the Subsidised Medical Practitioners employed under the Rural Medical Relief Scheme.

The orders involve an increase in the subsidy from Rs. 75 per mensem to Rs. 150 per mensem in the case of allopathic Subsidised Medical Practitioners and from Rs. 50 per mensem to Rs. 120 per mensem for qualified Subsidised Medical Practitioners in the case of Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners. The grant for medicines and instruments of both kinds of Subsidised Medical Practitioners will simultaneously be increased by Rs. 50 per annum and the travelling allowance of Ayurvedic and Unani Subsidised Medical Practitioners will be brought to the same level as that of the allopathic Subsidised Medical Practitioners, that is, all Subsidised Medical Practitioners in future will get a travelling allowance of Rs. 37-8-0 per mensem.

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Bihar Government to Popularise Ayurvedic system

The Government of Bihar are considering a scheme for popularising indigenous systems of medicine according to the Ayurvedic and Tibbi sciences and the first step in the direction will be the establishment of a college in each of the three divisions of Bhagalpur, Tirhut and Chotanagpur.

The plan includes opening of an Ayurvedic clinic for patients suffering from tuberculosis at Digha, five miles from Patna.

The working of the scheme will be placed under an independent department to be called the Department of Indigenous Medicines and the chief executive will be the Superintendent with the rank of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bihar. For the present the Principal of the Patna Ayurvedic College will be the Superintendent and the Principal of the Tibbi College the Deputy Superintendent. The plan visualizes registration of "hakims" and "vaidyas and the same facilities will be accorded to them as those enjoyed by graduates according to the Western system of medicine.

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Orissa Bills

According to the Orissa Review the November session of the Legislative Assembly of that province passed five Bills into law. All the five were passed without any opposition and without much debate. The first Bill related to the amendment of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1939. It purported to give the Endowment Commissioner powers to enforce his orders of dismissal or suspension of trustees, office-holders or servants of maths, temples or religious endowments. The amendment of the Orissa Tenancy Bill is the next one that has been placed on the Statute book. According to the amendment Chandnadars have been brought within the purview of the Act and they are now protected against eviction from their homestead lands. The Orissa Land Encroachment Bill comes next. There was no special legislation till now to effectively deal with encroachments on Government lands, and the Bill is designed to remedy this defect. The Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Amendment Bill of 1947 and the Sambalpur Local Self-Government Bill are the next. They mainly pertain to the amplification of the powers of certain district boards in regard to the licensing of dangerous and offensive trades including mills and factories.

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Bombay Advisory Committee

The Government of Bombay has set up an Advisory Committee to assist the new Department of Parks and Gardens. The Committee is composed of the Honourable the Premier *Chairman*. Members — The Chief Secretary to Government, Political and Services Department, Mrs. Hansa Mehta, M.L.C., Mrs. Lilavati K. Munshi, M.L.A. (Bombay Agri-Horticultural Society), Mr. N. S. Kajrolkar, M.L.A., Dr. Hariprasad V. Desai, M.L.A., Mr. F. P. Pocska, Mr. Humayun Abdulali (Bombay Natural History Society), Mr. V. S. Gore, Mr. Jabir A. Ali, Mr. S. K. Bhagwat (Agri-Horticultural Society, Poona), Sir Manilal Nanavati, the Chief Conservator of Forests, the Director of Agricultural Engineering, the Consulting Surveyor to Government, the Horticulturist to Government, the Superintendent of Gardens, Bombay Municipality.

The Director of Parks and Gardens—*Ex officio Secretary*.

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Prohibition Board Magazine

Prof. J. C. Daruwalla has been *appointed* honorary editor of the monthly Prohibition Magazine to be published in English by the Provincial Prohibition Board. It is expected that this magazine will provide source material for the Prohibition Officers throughout the Province as also the District and Provincial Committees. It is also hoped that the regional language papers in different parts of the Province will use the material provided in this magazine. An Editorial Advisory Board has also been constituted.

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Resettlement and Employment Organization

The Resettlement and Employment Organization of the Government of India is being divided between Pakistan and the India Union. Of the total number of 70 Employment Exchanges, the India Dominion will retain 53 including the Central Employment Exchange, and the remaining 17 situated within Pakistan will belong to that Dominion. Of the nine Regional Directorates one will be allotted to Pakistan. The two Regional Directorates of Bengal *cum* Assam and Punjab *cum* North West Frontier Province are being partitioned. Separate Regional Directorates for East Punjab and West Bengal will be constituted. Of the total number of training centres which are proposed to be allotted on a territorial basis to either Dominion, 45 will go to Pakistan and 160 to India. The Centres will be divided complete with existing stores and equipment. Ex-servicemen will receive training at Centres of the Dominion to which they belong.

Big United Provinces drive for compost making

A big drive for producing at least 48 million tons of compost for the next kharif crop and help the province get over its present food deficit will be launched by the United Provinces Government early next month.

The authorities have been encouraged by the results of the October drive, which was started to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's 78th birthday. The results show that, with the exception of three or four districts, 100 per cent success has been achieved and each of the four-lakh pits dug is likely to yield about 60 maunds of compost, for almost no cost. The total yield is expected to be somewhere near 75 lakhs maunds at a production cost of Rs. 500.

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Bengal declares war on Black-Marketeers

Persons convicted of black-marketing may be called upon to display notices of their conviction at their places of business for not less than three months, under the provisions of a West Bengal Government Bill which is to be introduced in the provincial legislature this session. Newspapers may also be called upon to publish the full text of any official press note containing an account of the trial and conviction of any person charged with black-marketing.

If tried summarily, offenders under the proposed law will be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three years. In case of trial by a special tribunal, the maximum penalty will be seven years' imprisonment.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill says that black-marketing has been rampant for a long time and has become a great evil which should be checked immediately, if society is to survive.

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Coconut nurseries

Schemes for the establishment of coconut nurseries in important centres of Madras, Bombay and Assam Provinces were approved by the Indian Central Coconut Committee which concluded its sixth meeting in Bombay. The Madras scheme, the largest, involves the setting up of five new nurseries and will provide 160,000 selected coconut seedlings annually to coconut growers.

Sir Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, who presided, emphasized the need for making India self-sufficient in this important agricultural product. India, he pointed out, was now dependent on imports to the extent of about one lakh tons of copra a year and development of coconut production would be beneficial not only to the country as a whole but also to the grower.

A sub-committee to consider and make recommendations with regard to measures for the stabilization of coconut prices was also appointed.

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Bihar Provincial Development Board

The Provincial Government have for some time past been considering the question of the creation of an organization to help, accelerate and intensify the development programme of this Province. In 1937–38 also, when the Ministry was in office the subject of development of nation-building activities received their attention, and, in particular, measures of rural development and other activities on a large scale were started. The commencement of the war and its consequences, however, gave a set-back to those measures. The fundamental requirement now is that development should be methodically planned and executed in a co-ordinated manner in collaboration with representative public opinion. The Government of Bihar have accordingly constituted a Development Board with Hon'ble Minister for Development as Chairman. There are twenty members in the Board including the Chairman. The Development Commissioner will be the Secretary of the Board.

Functions of the Board.—The Board will be an advisory body only, but it will be competent to discuss and make recommendations to Government on all questions of policy relating to the Post-war Development and industrial expansion. The functions of the Board will be—

(1) to formulate detailed plans of industrial development of the Province ;

(2) to advise in regard to each industry, whether it should be State-owned or left to private enterprise ;

(3) to advise in respect of the industries to be left to private enterprise, the degree of State control to be exercised over them and the method of exercising the control whether by purchase of shares or otherwise ;

(4) to advise on the selection of sites for industries ;

(5) to advise on such other matters connected with industrial or other development of the province as may be referred to the Board by Government ; and

(6) to help, obtain the services of experts, if and when necessary.

The Board will meet at least once in each quarter of the year and its life will be five years in the first instance. At each meeting a statement on the progress of the post-war plan in general since the last meeting will be given to each member.

The Board is empowered to co-opt members when necessary for special purposes and to appoint sub-committees composed of its members and co-opted members.

The Post-war Reconstruction Board, Bihar, constituted by the previous Government in the year 1944, is abolished.

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The United Provinces Economic Development Board

Methods to improve statistics of food production by undertaking a census of estimated yield for every field in the province were considered at the second meeting held yesterday of the Provincial Economic Advisory Board, United Provinces. The Board decided to recommend such a census to Government as an experiment for two years. It was generally agreed that the results obtained by such a census provide a useful check on the estimates obtained at present.

The Board also considered a resolution recommending introduction and development of mechanised water transport in rivers in order to cheapen transport and save coal. Suggestions made included State measures such as controlling river beds and river courses and creating artificial falls for generating energy. A good deal of discussion took place on the best method of management of such transport and the pros and cons of State management as against private management under State control were fully discussed. The Board finally agreed to recommend private management under State control.

The Board includes nine non-official members, viz., a representative each of the five Universities in the province and of Agriculture, Industry, Labour and Cottage Industries.

(Continued from page 2)

The average number of days worked by the sugar factories in a year in the Province is about 107 days. If more sugar has to be produced, the duration of cane-crushing season has to be extended. This has to be achieved by inducing ryots to cultivate both early and late-maturing varieties.

(*b*) *By concentrating and intensifying propaganda work.*—The scheme will be tried in 24 taluks, spread over 13 districts. The work in each taluk will be in charge of a Special Agricultural Demonstrator, assisted by a technical staff of one fieldman and four demonstration maistris.

The main items of work in the taluks selected will be—

(i) organizing seed farms for multiplication and sale of seed material of an improved variety found suitable for the tract,

(ii) visiting growers frequently and guiding them in cultivating on improved lines,

(iii) demonstrating the construction of suitable type of furnace for jaggery manufacture,

(iv) arranging supply of manures, cane-crushers and jaggery pans required by growers and demonstrating improved methods of purifying jaggery, and

(v) issuing free seed material up to a limit of Rs. 200 per annum to deserving poor ryots.

Government's Policies and Programmes

Basic Education

Hon'ble Minister for Education Surveys Position

Speaking at the meeting of the Advisory Board of Basic Education, Hon. Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Minister for Education, observed: "There are people who think that if spinning is introduced in elementary schools, that will be basic education. Nothing is farther from the truth. Basic education is not merely teaching, spinning or any other craft but it is teaching through craft. It is a well accepted principle of education throughout the world that all education should be based upon experience and if a craft can be made the main experience around which education could be imparted, it serves the double purpose of giving experience as well as teaching a useful craft and that is the main contribution of basic education to the world of educational thought. Since it is so much different from ordinary education, we may understand how much it will be difficult for us to introduce this new system of education in our schools throughout the Province. For teachers who have grown old in the old method of education, this will indeed be a trial. The task of re-training the lakh and odd teachers already employed in our elementary schools is indeed a great one; but yet one that has to be done."

Government Plans

The Government are drawing out a comprehensive plan for the spread of basic education throughout the Province. In the course of this year, three more training schools have been started, one in South Kanara, another in Malabar and the third in Tamil Nad. In addition, they have also started training the staff of our Training Schools. Twenty-four of them are being trained in basic education and it is expected that they will be able to convert eight training schools as basic training schools in the next school year. I am also glad to inform you that the Basic Education Society of Tamil Nad and the Kasturba Trust have come forward to conduct a training school each in basic education. Circulars also have been issued that within five years all higher grade and secondary grade training schools in the province should become basic training schools.

Importance of Elementary Education

Education in the elementary stage is the very basis of our national life. If we are to create a great and glorious nation that can be done only by giving ideas of strength, cleanliness and efficiency to our children even while they are young and in the lowest classes. If that is to be done, the efficiency and quality of our elementary schools will have to be improved a great deal. While basic education will certainly improve the content of education, we must also address ourselves to the organization of elementary education which will avoid wastage and create an efficient system of elementary education throughout the Province. I am sorry to inform you that even on the 31st of March 1947, there have been as many as 5,421 single-teacher schools and as many as 14,014 double-teacher schools in the Province. Everybody who has any experience of educational organization will know how much of waste there may be in these schools. It is also unfortunate that in certain villages where there is strength only for one good elementary school, there are two elementary schools with two or three teachers each. This could be easily combined into one school working with greater efficiency. In some cases, the district board itself maintains two schools, one for boys and one for girls. In some cases, it is one aided school and another District Board school and in other cases, it is two aided schools working in competition with each other. The result is that the strength between them is vacillating and the strength of both is low and both schools are inefficient. In these circumstances, the Government are contemplating whether it will not be in the interests of both efficiency and economy to combine these inefficient schools and conduct them more efficiently.

Personnel

The real problem of our elementary schools is want of good personnel. It has been said that we are entrusting the education of the future of the nation in the least qualified hands. I must express in this place my appreciation of the good work done by our thousands of elementary school teachers under very difficult surroundings in far off remote villages. At the same time, I am also not unaware of the great need for improvement in the personnel of our elementary school teachers. Various reasons have contributed towards this unhappy state of affairs. The basic qualifications, the conditions of service, constant transfers, want of proper treatment by superiors and in some cases unhelpful attitude of the villagers themselves have contributed to these. Any organization which does not take into account these factors and effect improvement in the status of the elementary school teachers in their daily life cannot succeed in its object and so, it is under the contemplation of Government to consider ways and means by which this can be done consistent with our financial resources.

Women Teachers

It will be seen from figures that the number of women employed in elementary schools has considerably increased in recent years—

Year.	Number of women teachers in elementary schools.
1941–42	19,470
1942–43	20,373
1943–44	21,442
1944–45	22,596
1945–46	24,202
1946–47	25,353

This shows how more and more women are taking to teaching as a profession. With the spread of education amongst girls, there will be thousands more of them who would like to take up to a profession. Teaching children is one of those professions in which women can do much better than men and it is only to be expected that as time goes on, the number of women who will take to teaching as a profession will become greater every year. In England, America and in other countries, elementary school teachers are normally only women and only in rare cases, men are employed. It is likely that the same conditions may prevail in this country also. If

this is to happen, we must provide conditions of security and dignity to those who would take up this work. This is a responsibility which rests both upon the State and the people.

The importance that elementary education plays in the economy of our Province is reflected in the expenditure incurred for it. From the figures given below, it will be seen that a large amount has been spent on elementary education, as compared with secondary and collegiate education:—

	Amount spent on		
Year.	Elementary education.	Secondary education.	College education.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	LAKHS. RS.	LAKHS. RS.	LAKHS. RS.
1941–42	278	127	68
1942–43	287	129	71
1943–44	314	143	77
1944–45	386	164	90
1945–46	460	203	123
1946–47	*390+ 170 † =560	*59·46+ 161 † =220·46	*55·96+ 77 † =132·96

* Government expenditure.

† Expenditure from other sources based on figures for 1945–46.

The actuals for 1947–48 will be much greater than for 1946–47, because the recent revision of salaries made for elementary school teachers will also have to be included in the total expenditure for that year.

Financial position

It has been estimated that there are about seven million school-going children who have to be provided for in elementary education. Till now, we have been able to provide only for about half that number. We have got the tremendous work of providing for the rest of the school-going children. The state of our provincial finance is too well-known for everybody. Any further expansion of expenditure in any large scale will be well-nigh impossible. Our revenues are shrinking. Our expenditure is increasing in all items and with the prospect of a depression ahead, it is possible that other items of revenue which have hitherto yielded large amounts to the provincial exchequer may also dwindle. In these circumstances, it will be very difficult if we are to make further expenditure of a like amount necessary before making education available for the rest of the children. It is not only a matter of finding money but also a matter of finding nearly double the number of teachers that we have today, i.e., nearly another lakh and fifty thousands of teachers. Besides, this will also mean finding more than double the number of buildings necessary for elementary education. Our school buildings are not in a very enviable condition today. To set them in order itself will cost us a fabulous sum but to find double that accommodation in the near future will be a well-nigh impossible task for any Government. But these difficulties should not deter us from our objective. We must find ways and means by which we must be able to provide seats for the school-going children throughout the Province. The experiences of other provinces and countries must be able to give us a great deal of light in this matter and the Government are considering with interest the systems followed in neighbouring States and elsewhere.

Conclusion

Our plans and our execution may not be perfect because we may lack the wherewithal to build them as well as we would wish. But we shall try to do our best within the resources available to us. In this great task, we want the co-operation of all men and women in the villages and we hope we will have them in a whole-hearted manner.

The Housing Problem

Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas' explains Government measures

The Housing problem is one of the numerous problems that call for urgent solution in the post-war world. It is fairly common throughout the world in different degrees of intensity. The Madras Government have been extremely prompt in grasping the magnitude of the problem and taking quick action. Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas refers in his broadcast to the historical background of the problem and the various measures taken by the Government towards its solution. He also appeals for public co-operation. This co-operation is especially essential in a matter like the shortage of housing accommodation for the Government have its own natural handicaps and cannot do everything single-handed.

4

In the course of the broadcast the Hon'ble Minister said—

Housing Scheme of the Government

Housing is one of the most important problems that confront us at the present time in India. On the physical plane, it is next in importance only to food and clothing. And there can be no civilized life without proper housing facilities. Housing has a vital bearing on the health of the nation and the standard of living of the community in general. Neglect of housing tends to the growth of 'plague spots' in crowded towns and cities which constitute a starting point for the spread of epidemics like cholera, plague and smallpox. It is no exaggeration to state that the standard of health of the people in our villages, towns and cities is to a large extent dependent on the provision of healthy and hygienic houses. Housing has now become one of the major problems that needs to be tackled with all the resources which the State, local bodies, employers and private capitalists can mobilize.

Background

Discussing the question of housing accommodation in India, the Bhore Committee observes that increase in the number of houses has not kept pace with the increase in population. It is an indisputable fact, as far as Madras is concerned, that there has been a sharp increase of population in the last two decades, but no corresponding increase in the number of houses, especially houses suitable for the lower middle class and the poorer sections. The position has become much worse since the last war. Abnormal increase in the value of building sites, the extreme scarcity of building materials like cement, steel and timber and the greatly increased cost of labour, both

skilled and unskilled have prevented the construction of new houses on an appreciable scale. Statistics show that in the Madras City during the last quinquennium (1941-1946) when the increase in population was over 60 per cent, only about 1,600 new houses were constructed which works out at the rate of one new house for every addition of 287 people. The position is not very different in the important towns in the mufassal.

Agencies for Construction

As regards the actual construction of houses, there are various possible agencies: the Government, municipalities and local boards, co-operative societies, companies and employers as well as private individuals. As amongst these diverse agencies, co-operative effort represents a happy mean between the restricted and often slow-moving methods of municipal and public enterprise and the system of commercial enterprise which is actuated by the profit motive. A co-operative building society is primarily concerned with the satisfaction of the need for housing felt by its members, while a commercial enterprise is concerned with the profit that can be derived by the investment of funds on house construction. State loans are obtained by co-operative building societies and passed on to members on easy rates and for periods up to 20 years with a view to enable them to build their own houses for their own occupation. The system does not aim at exploiting them, but promotes thrift among members; for it enables the members to save from their income to pay off the loans obtained. When the co-operative organization takes the form of a house construction society, which builds houses for its members and leases them out to them on the hire-purchase system, the objective is to economize the costs of construction and to speed up the erection of buildings by joint effort. The houses are constructed primarily for the occupation of the owners themselves, for only those who have no houses of their own are generally admitted as members. If exceptions are made in favour of those who possess houses of their own, it is only on condition that they agree to rent out the new houses at fair rates determined by the Board of Directors of the Society. This exception has become necessary in recent years, as otherwise the general shortage of houses cannot be remedied speedily.

Further, the co-operative system does away with the arbitrary interference of the landlord as members in their corporate capacity constitute the landlord or owners. In view of these undoubted advantages, Government propose to encourage schemes of co-operative housing as far as possible.

Government action

With a view to immediately relieve the shortage in the housing accommodation in the city and the mufassal the Government have organized a Co-operative House Construction Society in the City and in several important mufassal towns. In order to tackle the problem of housing in rural areas, it is also proposed to organize similar societies in all major panchayats where there is shortage of housing accommodation. The question of extending similar schemes, with necessary modifications to villages is also under consideration. Housing Committees have been constituted in 70 municipalities and 197 major panchayats for the selection of suitable sites for house building and for the formation of Co-operative House Building Societies. Most of the societies have begun to function and have selected sites for the building schemes. The progress of the schemes is bound to be slow in the initial stages in view of the difficulties relating to acquisition of suitable sites and the scarcity of building materials like iron, cement and timber; but Government are making arrangements to speed up acquisition proceedings, to help in procuring the necessary materials and also to provide the necessary funds by way of loans to the Co-operative House Construction Societies.

Madras House Construction Society

Of these co-operative societies, the Madras House Construction Society deserves special mention. It has on its roll 661 members with a paid up share capital of Rs. 22,31,000. The society has already acquired site to an extent of about 131 acres in Adyar by private negotiation. A lay-out plan has been prepared, providing for 332 houses. The society proposes to construct three classes of buildings:—Upper class buildings at a cost of Rs. 15,000 each; middle class buildings at a cost of Rs. 10,000 each and lower class buildings at a cost of Rs. 5,000 each, exclusive of the value of the site. It is to be a self-contained colony providing amenities such as clubs, playgrounds, parks, schools, child welfare centres, markets and such like. It is expected to start construction in January 1948 which may be finished in less than a year. When completed, this colony will be a model of its kind from the point of view of health, sanitation and recreation facilities. The society is also initiating land acquisition proceedings for additional sites in Adyar, Mylapore and Kilpauk.

Other Schemes

The Co-operative Housing Schemes referred to above are intended for middle class people who are in a position to make the initial deposit covering a quarter of the cost of the site and of the house and to repay the remainder of the cost provided by the society in easy instalments during a period of 20 years. The question of housing the poorer classes of people is also under the consideration of the Government. It is obvious that so far as these sections of the people are concerned, they will not be in a position to join up the Co-operative House Building Societies as they cannot make the required initial deposits unless special arrangements are made or special subsidies are given by the Government. With reference to the Weaver communities in the mufassal, house construction schemes are worked out under the auspices of the Weavers' Co-operative Societies. A beginning has been made at Yemmiganur in the Bellary district where a scheme for the construction of 100 houses has already been worked out and foundation has been laid. About 20 similar housing schemes are being started in various other parts of the Province. As regards Housing Schemes for Harijans, various schemes are being considered by the Harijan Welfare Committee and the Government will take necessary action as soon as the recommendations of the Committee are received. On the general question of housing also, a Provincial Housing Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Diwan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan, retired Chief Engineer. The Committee have examined the various housing problems in the Province and their report is likely to be ready before the end of the month. The Government are awaiting the report of the Committee with interest and will consider their recommendations and take such action as is necessary and possible.

Appeal

What I have outlined above is only a beginning. The problem is so widespread and so vast that it requires steady and sustained efforts both of the Government and of every section of the people. I would therefore appeal to every section of the public not only to help and co-operate with the Government in their schemes, but also to initiate and carry out building schemes on smaller and larger scales throughout our Province.

What the Government have done for Harijans and Muslims

Harijans

1. *Social.*—In order to improve the social status of the Harijans and to remove their civil disabilities, the Government enacted the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act, 1938. Recently a Bill to amend this legislation which seeks further to remove their civil disabilities has been passed by the Houses of the legislature. House-sites, wells, tanks, etc., for supply of drinking water, sanitary amenities, pathways, burning or burial grounds, etc., are provided by the Labour Department for the social amelioration of the Harijans. Government make grants to private bodies engaged in social uplift of the community and they have created a special fund of Rs. 1 crore called the Harijan Uplift Fund with a view to undertaking a colonization scheme for the benefit of the Harijans. The details of the scheme have not yet been finally settled.

Collectors of districts have been instructed to select sites for sinking wells in rural areas as far as possible near Harijan colonies and places accessible to them. The Government have directed that wells dug at the cost of the Government in the premises of Courts, police lines, offices, etc., should be used by the persons for whom they were intended, namely, litigants, policemen, employees in the offices, etc., as the case may be, irrespective of their community and if after serving their needs first, it is possible to extend the convenience to others, it may be done by the head of the office in whose compound the well is situate. Government are also issuing instructions that officials who go enquiring into the needs of the Harijans should actually go to the cheris themselves and not bring the Harijans to the place where they camp.

2. *Spiritual.*—By the passing of the Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act, 1947, Harijans have been enabled to enter any Hindu temple and offer worship therein in the same manner and to the same extent as Hindus in general.

3. *Economic.*—Under Board's Standing Order No. 15 (38) specific areas of land in each village have been set apart for assignment to depressed classes for cultivation. In the case of valuable lands, they may be assigned to them on collection of market value in easy instalments. Under the Grow More Food rules, preference in the matter of temporary grant is given to landless poor, the bulk of the landless poor being Harijans.

On representations made to the Government by the Harijans that they are experiencing difficulties in securing the rationed articles and that they may be exempted from the operation of the one year rule about the licences under the Madras Foodgrains Control Order (No. 11), 1945, to enable them to open rice ration shops, orders have been issued by the Government that the one year rule may be waived in case of genuine applicants belonging to scheduled castes provided they satisfy the other conditions.

On a representation from the members of the Legislative Assembly that Harijans including those who were converted to Christianity are not getting their due share of controlled and rationed articles such as mill cloth, yarn, foodgrains, firewood, sugar, etc., as the licensed dealers invariably belong to other communities, the Government have ordered that some shops may be located in Harijan quarters, Harijans being made the licensees in respect of such shops. The Collectors were asked to implement fully the above orders in granting licences to deal in cloth and yarn. The Government have also ordered that whenever applications from suitable Harijans with necessary qualifications are available they may be considered favourably for appointments in the Textile Department.

Co-operative societies have been organized for the Scheduled classes for various purposes such as supply of credit for their agricultural and domestic expenses, purchase of house-sites to provide dwelling houses, or the taking of land on lease or an assignment from the Government for purposes of cultivation. On the 30th June 1946, there were 2,328 such societies with 1·14 lakhs of members. These societies include the Kallar societies in Tanjore and Madura districts, the fishermen societies in Malabar and South Kanara and the societies for hill tribes in Vizagapatam and East Godavari districts. The Government have sanctioned special staff for the supervision of these societies.

The Government have exempted the Scheduled class members of co-operative societies including land mortgage banks from the payment of all fees payable under the law of registration for the registration of documents and for obtaining encumbrance certificate in respect of applications for loans on the security of immovable property. Under the existing orders this concession will remain in force till 31st March 1950.

4. *Educational.*—Maintenance of schools, grant for scholarships, stipends and boarding grants, grants for the purchase of books, etc., grants to private educational institutions for the benefit of Harijans, are the ameliorative measures taken by the Labour department for the Harijans.

The scholarships in the Madras Veterinary College are distributed in accordance with the principle of communal rotation based on the strength of each class. Candidates belonging to the Scheduled castes who are admitted to the B.V.Sc. degree course in the Madras Veterinary College will be paid a scholarship of Rs. 40 per mensem whereas candidates belonging to other communities will be paid only Rs. 30 per mensem.

Instructions have also been issued to the Director of Veterinary Services to view liberally applications from Harijan candidates for admission into the Madras Veterinary College and to see that all Harijan candidates who possess the minimum qualifications required for admission are admitted to the course without reference to their marks in comparison with other candidates, i.e., a Harijan candidate need not be rejected on the ground that there are candidates with better marks or higher qualifications.

Three scholarships of Rs. 30 per mensem each are awarded to the backward and other communities including Harijans in each of the Agricultural Colleges, Coimbatore and Bapatla. Two scholarships of Rs. 40 each per mensem are awarded to students from the Scheduled castes by the Labour department in each of the Agricultural Colleges.

The Director of Agriculture has been asked to issue instructions to the Principals of the Agricultural Colleges to view liberally applications from Harijan candidates for admission into the colleges.

The Government have issued instructions to check discrimination against

Harijans in schools. In the matter of admissions special facilities have been made for the reservation of seats to the extent of 10 per cent to Harijans in schools. As a means of solving the problem of untouchability, the opening of separate schools for Harijans will be discouraged. Steps are also taken to see that when schools are newly opened, they are located near Harijan cheris so that it may be convenient for Harijans to attend along with caste pupils. Harijans are eligible for full fee concessions up to III Form if they are poor under the Madras Educational Rules. Harijan girls in higher forms and Harijan boys in all forms are eligible for the half-fee concessions under these rules. The Government sanctioned in 1945-46 a scheme for the introduction of compulsory elementary education in selected villages in each district and the scheme is being extended year after year. Instructions have been issued to the Director of Public Instruction to select villages in backward areas as far as possible. Under the orders of Government, poor children of *Scheduled Castes and Muslims* reading in elementary schools under local bodies are supplied with books and slates free of cost. These books and slates should be utilized by the pupils during school hours and should not be taken home. The supply is left to the discretion of the local bodies and depends on the funds available with them. Harijan boys and girls in all schools and colleges are eligible for the special scholarships reserved for them by the Labour department. In the Education department though no special scholarships have been earmarked for the Harijan pupils direction has been given that in the award of the general scholarships preference should be given to the claims of the Harijan pupils.

In regard to collegiate education, the Government are against fixing a rigid communal proportion for admission into Government Arts and Professional Colleges. They have, however, issued instructions to the Principals of Government Colleges that while making selections for admission to all classes in their colleges, they should exercise the greatest care in seeing that due representation is given to Non-Brahmans, to all minority communities, to Muslims, to Scheduled classes and to women. They have also been instructed that special consideration should be shown to Muslim women and Scheduled classes very few of whom ever reach the collegiate standard. From the academic year 1947-48, the Government have reserved 10 per cent of the seats in all Government *Arts* Colleges, *Training* Colleges and *Law* College, Madras, for Harijan students. In the matter of admission to Government *Engineering* Colleges, fresh instructions have been issued to the Principals of the Colleges that the number of seats from each district should be fixed to the extent possible with reference to the ratio of the population of the district bears to the total population of all the districts in the Province. They have also been informed that the communal proportion fixed for representation in Government service should be kept in view and should be observed as far as practicable in the matter of selection of students from the various communities for admission into the Government Engineering Colleges. This will enable Harijans to get their fair share of seats in such colleges.

In respect of Medical education the following concessions are admissible to *Harijans and Muslims* ;—

(1) Women students of these communities and classes when admitted to the Medical Colleges are exempted from the payment of entire tuition fees.

(2) Out of every twelve seats in the Medical Colleges, Muslims get two and Harijans one.

In the School of Indian Medicine, the following concessions are given to *Muslims and Scheduled Castes* students :—

(1) A stipend of Rs. 20 per mensem to two women students every year.

(2) Half-fee concession to all *Muslim and Scheduled Caste students*.

In the Central Board of Indian Medicine, one seat has been reserved for medical practitioners from the *Scheduled Castes* and one seat for practitioners in Unani system who are generally *Muslims*.

5. *Political*.—So far as local bodies are concerned, special representation through reservation of seats has been given to members of *Scheduled Castes and Muslims* with reference to their population in the local areas concerned in order to safeguard their interests in the administration of local bodies.

Muslims

Educational and spiritual.—Every improvement that is necessary and is possible is being effected in the existing schools. It is the policy of the Government to have complete schools wherever necessary. Quite recently schools for Muslim girls were started at Mangalore, Coimbatore, Madras and Tirur. Provision exists for religious instruction in all these schools. Religious instruction is a regular feature in all Muslim institutions. Muslims are admitted into all Government hostels. Conveyance facilities are provided in schools for Muslim girls of a certain age. Muslims are also eligible for full and half-fee concessions as the case may be under the Madras Educational Rules. There are in addition special scholarships for Muslims in secondary schools and the number of scholarships has been increased this year. They are also eligible to receive general scholarship. They enjoy besides a large number of free scholarships in Government Muslim schools which are denied ordinarily to other communities. Three scholarships of the value of Rs. 30 each per mensem are awarded to the students from the Muslim community studying for the B.Sc. (Ag.) course in each of the Agricultural Colleges at Coimbatore and Bapatla. The concessions enumerated in detail under the heading "Harijans" in the matter of their education in the Arts, Professional and Medical Colleges, and in the School of Indian Medicine (including the Central Board of Indian Medicine), are allowed to the Muslims.

Political.—The same concessions as are shown to Harijans in the matter of representation through reservation of seats in local bodies are also shown to Muslims.

India's Cattle Weath

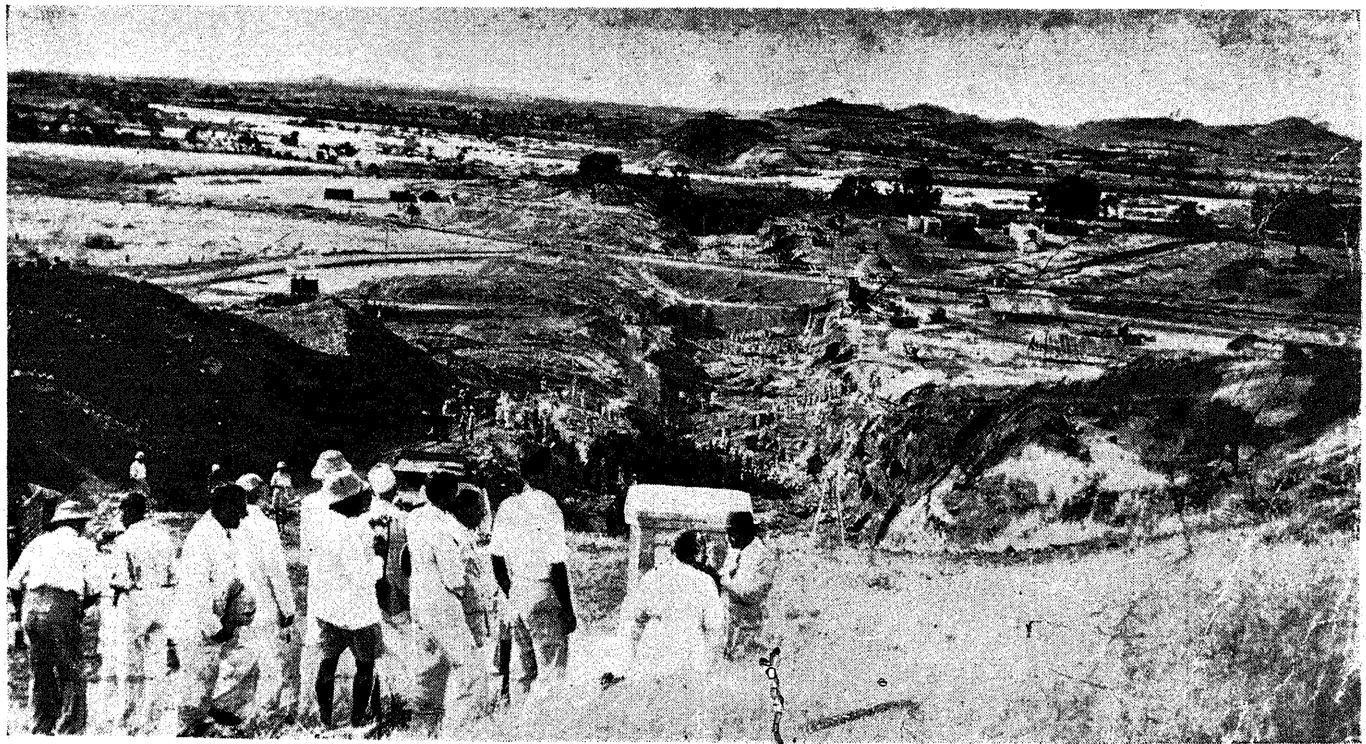
"Scientific knowledge should be harnessed for the development of India's cattle wealth," said Acharya Kripalani presiding over the annual function of the Delhi Pinjrapole Society yesterday. He said that though India had the largest number of cattle, most of them were infirm and unproductive. Services of experts should be utilized by Pinjrapoles which should be run as far as possible as self-contained units. The first essential requisite was to obtain the necessary land where fodder for cattle should be grown. Secondly measures should be taken to improve the breed of the animals.

Dependence on public subscriptions for running Pinjrapoles should be discontinued. No institution could be run on private charity and it should be the endeavour of the persons connected with it to make it self-sufficient.

Acharya Kripalani continued, "we are too much bound down by past tradition and do not understand true religion."

Tungabadra Project

Ground work in full swing



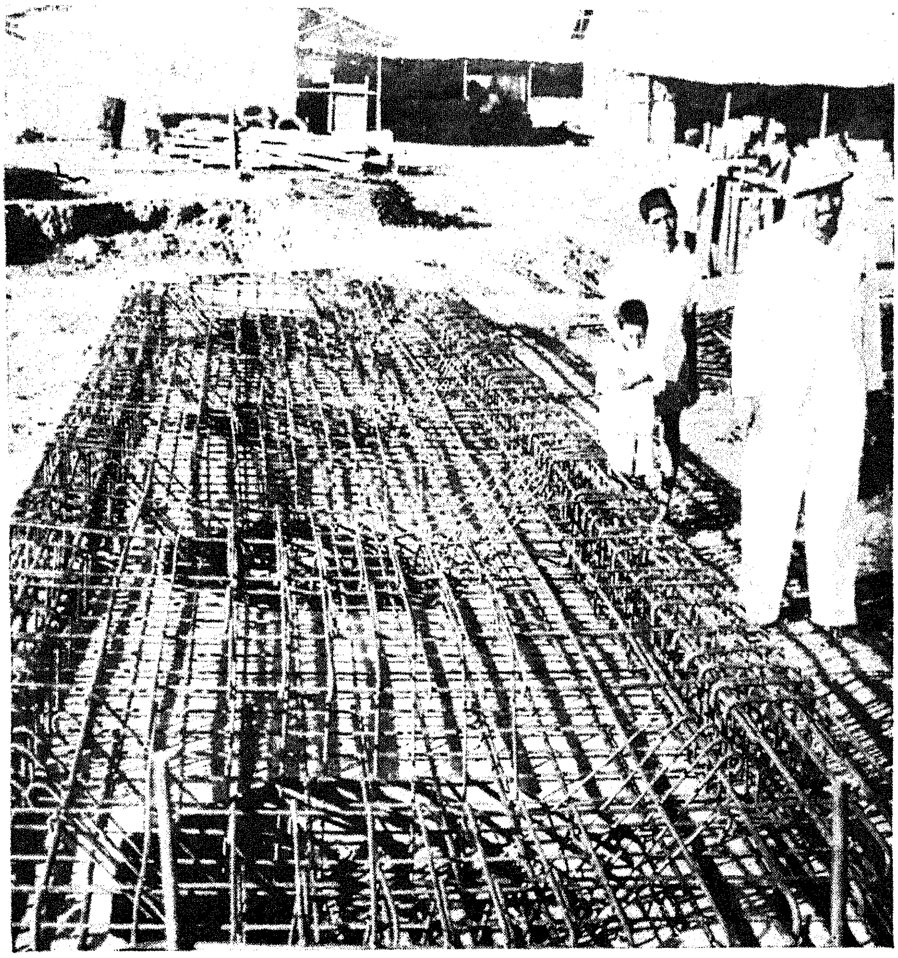
A full aerial view of the Tungabadra Dam

A photo taken in connection with the inspection of the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works of the Tungabadra Dam Area The Hyderabad Superintending Engineer is seen on the left of the Hon'ble Minister

Hon'ble Minister for Public Works inspecting the dam site. The Special Chief Engineer (right) *and the Superintending Engineer* (left) *are with the Hon'ble Minister*

Hon'ble Minister for Public Works distributing sweets for children of labourers in the Tungabadra Area

Some of the Burma evacuees employed as labourers in the Tungabadra Area



(Left) *Concrete work in connection with Tungabadra Project*

(Below) *Blasting operations going on in connection with the Tungabadra Project*

Departments' Corner

(1) Fisheries Department

Outline of its Activities

Aims

The primary objects of the department from its inception have been the development of fisheries and the fishery industries to their utmost capacity as a source of food supply to the masses, remunerative occupation to the fisherfolk, and revenue to Government. In surveying deep sea fishing grounds, in experimenting with methods of curing and canning, in fish farming for stocking tanks and investigating the life history, growth, egg, nesting habits, diseases and parasites of fish, as opportunities and staff were available, the department aims at augmenting and improving food supplies. In organizing and developing pearl, chank and inland fisheries the department aims at increasing the revenue. Simultaneously by educating the fisher-children, by organizing co-operative societies to provide capital and labour and utilizing duty free salt to encourage the adoption of improved methods of cure, the department aims at helping the fishermen to remunerative occupation.

2. Fish forms part of the diet for most of the population in Madras and in face of present scarcity of cereals, it can, with advantage, be used as supplementary food. Fish is also used for preparing manure. Fish manure is rich in phosphates and if applied in combination with nitrogenous manure, the yield becomes much greater. The Government are, therefore, tapping this wealth in addition to agricultural wealth.

3. The activities of the Fisheries department may be broadly classified under activities connected with (1) Marine Fisheries, (2) Inland Fisheries, (3) Pearl and Chank Fisheries and (4) Socio-economic work among fishermen.

Marine Fisheries

(a) *Research activities.*—Two biological stations are maintained by the Government one at the West Hill (Calicut) on that West Coast and the other at Krusadai (Gulf of Mannar). Problems arising from fishery methods on the West Coast are dealt with by the West Hill Biological Station. The Krusadai Biological Station on the East Coast, besides the normal work of collecting and studying data bearing on sea fisheries of that Coast, conducts experiments.

(b) *Deep sea fishing.*—Since February 1943 the activities of the Department have been considerably expanded. Deep sea fishing operations were initiated in the Province with a view mainly to increasing the catch of sharks and thus ensuring an abundant supply of shark livers to the Government Oil Factory, Calicut. The work was first begun in 10 centres on the West Coast and 9 centres on the East Coast. These centres were later increased in November 1944 from 10 to 12 on the West Coast and from 9 to 16 on the East Coast. These experiments have given satisfactory results and have also shown vast scope for expansion. The centres were increased from 28 to 46 on the whole, both in the East and West Coasts and the policy of the Government now is to further intensify the deep sea fishing operations in this Province by the purchase of a large number of trawlers and by the formation of large scale companies for deep sea fishing operation as this may help to solve the food problem to some extent. Intensive measures for augmenting fish supply are also being taken.

(c) *Transport of fish.*—In order to provide increased facilities for the transport of fish from the place of catch to the shore and thence to the ensuing centres and for easy and wholesome preservation of fish, the Government have also sanctioned the purchase of two ice factories, two freezing plants, two coldstores and ten refrigerated vans.

(d) *Marketing of fish.*—With a view to improve the existing insanitary conditions in the market, the Government appointed recently a Fishery Marketing officer to effect a speedy survey of the existing marketing conditions of fish, fishery products and improvements in the Province and to arrange necessary transport facilities by road, rail and water way.

(e) *Fish manure, fish meal, etc., industry.*—With a view to developing the industry of fish manure, fish guano and fish meal the Government appointed a Special Officer in November 1943. As a result of the work done by this officer the dealers in fish oil, fish manure and fish guano have realized the advantages of converting all the available surplus quantities of various kinds of fish besides sardine into guano and fish meal, instead of turning them into crude manure of no particular manurial or commercial value.

(f) *Cured fish.*—The Government are maintaining fish-curing yards both on the East and West Coasts and issue duty free salt to the fish curers for the curing of fish.

(g) *Shark liver oil.*—The manufacture of shark liver oil was started on a commercial scale in 1940 at the Government Kerala Soap Institute and the oil was placed on the market. Owing to the increase in the demand for the oil a separate factory was constructed at Calicut in 1942 and shark liver oil is now manufactured in the Government Oil Factory at Calicut. This oil is rich in vitamin contents.

(h) *Craft and tackle improvement.*—As a result of the recent war, the fishermen were experiencing great difficulty in procuring timber for building boats, logs for catamarans and yarn for making nets and lines. This was a great handicap to the free development of the fishing industry. A Special Officer for the improvement of Craft and Tackle (Marine) and another Special Officer (Inland) were employed for getting necessary timber for building boats in large numbers to meet the needs of the industry. An experimental boat building yard was established at Adirampatnam in the Tanjore district and the Government sanctioned the experimental building of two five-ton fishing boats to be supplied to the fishermen at 75 per cent of the cost and they have been built and sold. As this experiment has proved successful the question of establishing a regular boat building yard at Adirampatnam for manufacturing about 5,000 boats and supplying them to fishermen at concessional rates to protect them from the exploitation of middlemen is under consideration of Government.

Inland Fisheries

Inland fisheries.—A four-year scheme for developing piscicultural possibilities of tanks in deltaic portion of Kistna district is under operation

Demonstration tanks, conservancy of carp fry in canals, channels, drains, etc., supply of larvicides and propaganda in educating the public about the activities of the department are the features of the scheme.

As a preliminary to undertaking large scale operations, Government sanctioned the survey of the Kistna and Godavari rivers. They also sanctioned a scheme for the survey of the fisheries of the rivers of the Presidency with a view to finding out different kinds of migratory fishes.

At Ootacamund a mirror carp farm and trout culture have been established. There are also demonstration farms for popularizing the inland fisheries and educating the rural population on the intrinsic and food value of fishes. The department has participated in a number of open exhibitions.

Pearl and Chank Fisheries

The important chank fisheries are those of Tinnevelly and Ramnad. The smaller fisheries of Tanjore, Chingleput and Nellore are leased to contractors and a portion of the Tanjore fishery is being worked departmentally. The aim of the department is the organisation and development on scientific lines of the ancient chank fisheries and pearl fisheries with a view both to ensuring prosperity of the fishermen who are engaged in these fisheries and to safeguarding the revenues of the State. Pearl fisheries exist off Tinnevelly and Ramnad Coasts. There has been no pearl fishery since 1928.

Socio-Economic Activities

Education.—One of the duties of the Fisheries department has been to bring about the uplift of the fishermen community through education. At the inception of the department the fisher-folk on both the coasts were in general at every low stage of intellectual development and their general condition called for remedial measures. Separate fisheries schools were therefore started. From the year 1919 onwards there was a progressive increase in the number of schools, year by year till 1937-38, when a more rapid expansion took place. The result is that today there are 56 fisheries schools on the West Coast alone as against 51 during the previous year, with 9,922 pupils and 3 on the East Coast with 194 pupils. Of these 56 schools on the West Coast, one is a high school, 10 are higher elementary schools and 45 are lower elementary schools.

Training in fisheries.—A short term course has been conducted lasting for a period of six weeks, for training the members of public and local bodies in inland fish farming to improve fish production in order to tackle the food situation.

Co-operation.—Since 1934, the officers of the Fisheries department have been working in collaboration with the officers of the Co-operative department in starting new societies among fishermen and in supervising them. At the close of the year ended June 1946 there were 60 such societies on the West Coast and 3 on the East Coast. As a result of the working of these societies it has been possible to wean the fishermen from the habits of intemperance, extravagance, etc., and it is gratifying to note that the drink evil among this community has now diminished considerably. The question of appointing welfare officers is under consideration of the Government.

A scheme for the supply of catamaran logs, sail cloth, yarn, manila rope, coal tar, hooks, etc., to fishermen on a subsidized basis is separately under consideration as a relief measure.

(2) Labour Department

Labour Situation during the First Fortnight of November 1947

About 1,000 workers of the Western India Match Co., Ltd., Tiruvottiyur, Madras, staged a stay-in-strike on 27th October 1947 on the alleged refusal of the management to compensate them for the fall in their earnings due to the introduction of half packets.

The workers resumed work on 1st November 1947 in the afternoon.

About 91 workers of the Mysore Vegetable Oil Products, Ltd., Madras, struck work on 28th October 1947 as their demands for dearness allowance, increments, house allowance, uniforms, etc., were not conceded by the management. On the intervention of the Labour Officer, Madras, an agreement was reached between the workers and the management and the workers resumed work on the morning of 4th November 1947.

The Madras District Cigar Workers Union issued a notice of strike, dated 28th October 1947, to the President, Madras Cigar Manufacturers Association and the following companies:—

(1) T. R. Swami Chetty Cigar Co., Madras;

(2) P. G. Manickam Chetty Cigar Factory, Madras.

(3) P. Venugopal Mudaliyar Cigar Factory, Madras; and

(4) The Indian Tobacco Co., Madras.

The Union intimated that the workers would go on strike if their demands for increased wages, dearness allowance, provident fund, gratuity, etc., were not conceded within a fortnight from the date of notice.

The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter.

The Madras District Beedi Workers' Union issued a notice of strike, dated 28th October 1947, to the President of the Beedi Factory Owners Association, Madras, and the following Beedi Companies:—

(1) Taj Mahal Beedi Co., Madras, (2) Kareem Beedi Co., Madras, (3) Sait Beedi Co., Madras, (4) Diamond Beedi Co., Madras, (5) Hussain Beedi Co., Madras, (6) Governor Beedi Co., Madras, (7) Clover Beedi Co., Madras, (8) Rustom Beedi Co., Madras, (9) Roshan Beedi Co., Madras and (10) Bavatta Beedi Co., Madras.

The Union intimated that if the demands for increased wages, dearness allowance, houserent allowance, provident fund, bonus, etc., were not conceded, they would go on strike after a fortnight from the date of the notice.

The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter.

The Gordon Woodroffe Tannery Workers Union issued a notice of strike,

dated 30th October 1947 to the management of Gordon Woodroffe Leather Manufacturing Co., Pallavaram, intimating that the workers would go on strike on 14th November 1947 if the demands of the workers for increased basic pay, hours of work, Dearness allowance, wages for the night, etc., were not conceded. The management retrenched about 200 workers out of about 1,000 workers. The workers went on a lightning strike on 13th and 14th November 1947. As a settlement of the dispute could not be brought about, the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, has recommended to Government that the dispute may be referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Madras, for adjudication. The workers resumed work on 15th November 1947.

The Secretary of the Madras Snuff Workers Union, issued a notice of strike, dated 28th October 1947, to the President of the Madras Snuff Manufacturers' Association making 27 demands. He intimated that, if the demands were not conceded within a fortnight from the date of issue of notice, the workers of about eight companies, viz., (1) Original Shunmugam Snuff Co., Madras, (2) K. S. Sultan Sahib Snuff Co., Madras, (3) Ambal Snuff Co., Madras, (4) A. J. Snuff Co., Madras, (5) A.S. Snuff Co., Madras, (6) S. T. Snuff Co., Madras, (7) V. N. K. Snuff Co., Madras and (8) Appu Dorai Snuff Co., Madras, would go on strike. The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Original Shunmugam & Co. (Snuff Manufacturers), Madras, to the Industrial Tribunal, Madras, for adjudication.

The President and the Secretary of the Hindupur Motor Workers' Association, Hindupur, issued a strike notice to the managements of Messrs. A.D.T.S. and Messrs. V.M.S., stating that the workers would go on strike on 21st December 1947. The Labour Officer, Anantapur, has been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute. The President of the Association has also been asked to withdraw the notice of strike and await the result of conciliation by the Labour Officer, Anantapur, and the result of the Court of Inquiry for Motor Transport Services, etc.

The Government of Madras have accepted the award of the Industrial Tribunal (Sri P. Ramakrishna Ayyar), District and Sessions Judge, South Arcot, in the dispute between the boatmen and the owners of boats at Cuddalore Port.

The President of the Erode Motor Workers' Union issued a notice of strike to the management of A.M.T., Ltd., Erode, intimating that the motor workers would go on strike any day between 5th and 15th November 1947 if their demands for placing the workers on monthly paid staff, recognition of the Union, reinstatement of suspended and dismissed workers, fixation of hours of work, etc., were not conceded by the management. The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, has been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute. The Union has also been advised to withdraw the strike notice pending settlement of the dispute by conciliation.

The Conservancy menials of the Dharapuram Municipality struck work from 8th November 1947 demanding house-rent allowance and a bonus of one month's wages. The Municipal Chairman, Dharapuram and the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Dharapuram, intervened and brought about a settlement of the dispute. The menials resumed work on the next morning.

The management of the Jayalakshmi Mills, Ltd., Singanallur, Coimbatore district, have closed down their mills after due notice. The Commissioner of Labour visited Coimbatore and discussed the matter with the management. The management are not willing to open the mills unless the ceiling rate of waste cotton is fixed at a suitable level. The mills remain closed from 1st October 1947. The Government of Madras have addressed the Government of India regarding the fixation of ceiling price of waste cotton.

The management of the Saroja Mills, Singanallur, Coimbatore district, have proposed to close down the mills from 1st December 1947 on the ground that they are unable to implement the awards of the Industrial Tribunal as the mills are reported to be working at a loss.

It is reported that the Motor Transport Workers in Gudivada and Ellore struck work on 15th November 1947 forenoon in spite of his advice. The Labour Officer's detailed report is awaited.

The Labour Officer, Bezwada, has reported that the following tanneries in Ellore were closed on account of (1) stoppage of supply of raw hide from Pakistan areas, (2) lack of facilities for transporting skins, raw hide and tanning materials, (3) lack of funds and (4) unrest among workers who had been resorting to illegal strikes every now and then—

(1) Messrs. M. M. Abdul Azeez & Co., Tanneries I, II and III.

(2) Messrs. M. A. S. Haji Mohideen & Co.

(3) Messrs L. M. S. Sadik Tambhi & Co., Tanneries I and II.

Messrs. S. R. Abdul Rahman & Co., wired on 13th November 1947 stating that the workers of their tannery at Ellore struck work on 13th November 1947 without notice.

The Labour Officer, Bezwada, is looking into the matter.

About 2,500 workers of Messrs. Pierce, Leslie & Co. (Cashew Factory), Jeppu, Mangalore, struck work on 3rd November 1947 demanding 100 per cent increase in wages, increased dearness allowance, three months' wages as bonus, etc. The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government that the dispute may be referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication. The workers resumed work on 17th November 1947.

About 42 workers of the Premier Tile Works, Mangalore, struck work on 10th November 1947 and 11th November 1947 in batches demanding additional number of workers in piece work contracts of a gang of 14 workers in every tile press. The Labour Officer, Calicut, has been asked to bring about a settlement.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Mahalakshmi Textile Mills, Ltd., Pasumalai, Madura to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, at Tinnevelly for adjudication consequent on the attitude of the management to take disciplinary action on certain workers during the pendency of criminal cases.

The management of the Rajah Mills, Madura, have given notice of closure of their mills from 16th November 1947.

The Government have, in supersession of previous orders, constituted an Industrial Tribunal, consisting of one person, namely, Mr. N. D. Krishna Rao, District and Sessions Judge, South Malabar, to adjudicate in the dispute between the workers and the management of Messrs. K. P. Neelambi & Sons (Handloom Factory), Calicut.

The Secretary, Motor Workers' Union, Palghat, issued a notice of strike, dated 6th November 1947, to

the management of the T.B.T., Ltd., Palghat, intimating that the motor workers would go on strike from 21st November 1947 if their demands for recognition of the Union, reinstatement of dismissed workers, bonus, batta, etc., were not conceded. The Commissioner of Labour has asked the Labour Officer, Calicut, to bring about a settlement of the dispute and to advise the union to withdraw the strike notice.

The management of the Malabar Spinning and Weaving Mills, Limited, Kallai, have closed down their mills on 11th November 1947 after giving due notice.

The Labour Officer, Guntur, has reported that the strike notice, dated 7th October 1947, issued by the Secretary of the Electrical Labour Union, Nellore, to the management of the Nellore Power and Light, Limited, Nellore, was withdrawn as a settlement was reached between the parties.

The Government have referred the dispute between Sri K. Venkatarama Iyer, typist, and the management of Sri Meenakshi Sundareswaral Electric Power Corporation, Limited, Karaikudi, to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, for adjudication.

The management of the Pullicar Mills, Limited, Trichengode, Salem district, have closed down their mills from 1st November 1947 after due notice.

The Mettur Workers' Union (Electricity Department), Mettur Dam, issued a notice of strike demanding increase of wages, provident fund, gratuity, leave facilities, etc. The Superintending Engineer, Mettur Dam, intervened and promised to have their grievances redressed at an early date. The strike notice was withdrawn.

The General Secretary, Sri Rajagopal Transports Bus Workers' Union, Trichinopoly, issued a notice of strike, dated 20th October 1947, to the management of Rajagopal Transport, Limited, intimating that the workers would go on strike from 3rd November 1947 if their demands for recognition of union, reinstatement of discharged workers, hours of work, batta, etc., were not conceded by then. The Labour Officer, Trichinopoly, has brought about a settlement of the dispute and the strike was averted.

The Vice-President, Vincent & Co., Ltd., Employees Union, Trichinopoly, issued a notice of strike, dated 27th October 1947, to the management of Messrs. Vincent & Co., Ltd. (Mineral Waters, Bakery, etc.), Trichinopoly, intimating that the workers would go on strike on 10th November 1947 if their demands were not conceded. The Labour Officer, Trichinopoly, has brought about a settlement of the dispute and the strike notice was withdrawn.

The Secretary of the Karur Motor Workers' Union, Karur, Trichinopoly district, issued a notice of strike, dated 5th November 1947, to the Managing Director, U.M.S. Public Conveyance, Limited, Karur, intimating that the workers would go on strike from 23rd November 1947 if their demands for reinstatement of two turners and four blacksmiths who were discharged, refund of deposit money to conductors, supply of dress, etc., were not conceded. The Labour Officer, Trichinopoly, has been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

The Government have accepted the award of the adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Scindia Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Vizagapatam.

The workers of Nellimarla Jute Mills Co., Ltd., Nellimarla, Vizagapatam, struck work on 15th October 1947 as a protest against the dismissal of a worker in the winding department for insubordination and disobedience. The workers resumed work on 20th October 1947 on the assurance of the management to consider the question of reinstatement.

The President, Sri Rama Sugar Mills Labour Union, Bobbili and Seetanagaram, issued a strike notice on 6th November 1947 to the management of Sri Rama Sugar Mills, Limited, Bobbili, intimating that the workers in the above mills would go on strike after 14 days from the date of the strike notice, if their demands for recognition of the union, fixation of wages, bonus, etc., were not conceded by the management. The Labour Officer, Vizagapatam, has been asked to bring about a settlement.

(3) Education

Basic education.—The Government have sanctioned the appointment of a Basic Education Officer for the Andhra Desa, with headquarters at Vinayashram (Guntur district) and Sri L. Rajagopal Rao has been appointed to the post.

Reorganization of Secondary education.—The Provincial Advisory Board of Education met on 14th October 1947 and discussed the question of re-organization of Secondary Education based on the proposals submitted by the Secondary Education Board. It accepted the recommendation with certain changes.

The Director of Public Instruction has been authorized by Government to appoint sub-committees for drafting the syllabuses in the several subjects of the re-organized courses.

General.—The Government have suggested the inclusion of songs of Bharati and Namakkal Ramalingam Pillai in the Tamil Text-books published by Registered Publishers for use in Class V to Form V of Secondary Schools.

PRICE INDEX NUMBERS

The index numbers of rural prices for the month of October 1947 with the year ending 30th June 1936 as base or 100 were as follows for the several centres in the Province :—

District.	Rural centre.	Rural price index.	Variation when compared with the index for the previous month.
Vizagapatam ..	Adivivaram ..	393	Rise of 3 points.
	Thettangi	368	Rise of 4 points.
West Godavari ..	Alamuru	348	Fall of 7 points.
Bellary	Madavaram ..	416	Fall of 3 points.
South Arcot ..	Puliyur	312	Rise of 4 points.
	Agaram	317	....
Trichinopoly ..	Thulayanatham ..	373	Fall of 8 points.
Madura	Eriodu	328	Rise of 8 points.
	Gokilapuram ..	344	....
Coimbatore ..	Kinathukadavu ..	323	Fall of 6 points.
Malabar	Koduvalli	428	Fall of 5 points.
Chingleput ..	Guduvancheri ..	349	Rise of 3 points.
	Kunnathur ..	346	Rise of 5 points.

(4) Revenue

Prohibition Review—September 1947

Ex-Addicts make Substantial Savings

Enforcement

Cases detected.—The total number of cases detected in the eight districts during the month was 2,708, as against 2,252 in August. There was an increase in the number of cases detected in all the districts except Cuddapah.

Out of the 2,708 cases, 2,172 (representing about 80 per cent) relate to illicit distillation and kindred offences. The number of cases of illicit distillation increased from 958 to 1,176. The increase was appreciable in the districts of Kurnool, North Arcot and Chittoor. The increase in these districts was the result of several large scale raids conducted by the enforcement staff. Though the number of cases of smuggling of liquor increased from 64 to 76, no large scale smuggling from the adjoining states was reported during the month. The number of cases relating to intoxicating drugs increased from 138 to 187 which included three cases of illicit cultivation of hemp plant involving 16 plants in Chittoor district and two cases involving six plants in Salem district. Cases of smuggling of Mysore ganja were detected in the districts of Anantapur, Coimbatore, North Arcot, Salem and Chittoor.

There was a decrease in the sale of denatured spirit. Two cases of attempts to render denatured spirit fit for human consumption were detected but the quantity involved in these cases is reported to be small.

Assistance by officials of other departments and by non-officials.—The Police in the Ceded districts gave as usual satisfactory co-operation in the detection of crime. Village Officers detected in all 40 cases and rendered assistance in the detection of 107 cases. Four hundred and seventy-nine cases were detected by or with the assistance of outsiders other than regular informants. There was an appreciable improvement in the work done by the Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees in the districts of Salem and Anantapur. No cases were detected by or at the instance of the members of the Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees in the other districts.

Ameliorative Work

Substitutes for drink.—An increase in the number of coffee and tea shops is reported in all the Prohibition districts except Anantapur. These stall continued to be popular among the ex-addicts who frequented them.

Rural recreation.—The 52 Rural Recreation Officers who were working during the month visited 766 villages and organized rural games in 607 villages. Thirty-two firka tournaments and five taluk tournaments were held during the month. The Chief Physical Instructor and the Assistant Physical Instructor toured the Coimbatore district and checked up the work of the Rural Recreation Officers.

Bhajanas, Harikathas and Kalashepams.—Bhajanas, Harikathas or Kalashepams were held in 1,237 villages. Folk dances, dramas or cinema shows were held in 329 villages at the instance of the Development Officers.

Ballad singers.—The thirty ballad singers who were working during the month visited 327 villages and organized community singing in 116 villages. Six hundred and sixty villagers were trained in community singing. The Balled Singers besides training the villagers in community singing organized dramatic troupes wherever facilities existed and conducted bhajanas, Kathakalakshepams and Kathaprasangams.

Propaganda vans.—The Propaganda vans in Coimbatore, Salem, Anantapur, Bellary and Cuddapah districts visited 31, 28, 24, 16 and 9 villages respectively. The vans in Kurnool and North Arcot districts were under repairs.

Gramasangams.—Sixty-eight Gramasangams and seven Firka Associations were formed during the month bringing the total number formed till the end of the month to 7,004 Gramasangams and 197 Firka Associations. No new Taluk Association was formed during the month. The Gramasangams attented to various beneficial activities. Three Gramasangams in the Chittoor district rendered assistance in the procurement of paddy. Three Sangams in Coimbatore district collected Rs. 9,000 in all for the construction of rural dispensaries.

Rural Uplift Schools.—A Rural Uplift School with 43 students was started at Kadiri in Anantapur district during the month.

Thrift.—A total amount of Rs. 9,907 was saved in hundi boxes during the month bringing the amount saved up to the end of the month to Rs. 1,22,806.

Co-operative Societies.—Eight Weavers' Co-operative Production and Sales Societies were registered in the Salem district to provide work for ex-addicts and a Cottage Industries Society was organized at Arni in the North Arcot district for the economic uplift of the women of the locality.

Uplift of women.—The members of the Indian Women Civic Corps evinced interest in contracting women in the villages in Salem, Coimbatore and Bellary districts and Arkonam in North Arcot district. The Indian Women Civic Corps Centre at Arkonam purchased a loom for demonstrating korai mat weaving to the women of the families of ex-addicts who wished to learn the art.

Co-operative Jaggery Manufacturing Societies.—No further progress was made by these societies during the month, being the off season for tapping sweet juice from palms.

Beneficial effects of Prohibition.—The reports of the Collectors indicate that there is marked improvement in the economic and domestic life of the poorer classes in general and of the ex-addicts in particular. There is an air of happiness in the villages and the gloomy evenings have given place to fun and frolic. The reports of the Collectors and Special Development Officers specify the following concrete instances of economic improvement in the condition of ex-addicts on account of prohibition.

Anantapur district.—Madiga Nagadu, Madiga Kullayagadu, Madiga Munigadu and Vadde Nagappa of Putlur village have not only repaid their prior debts but each of them has saved Rs. 50. Mason Ahmed Sahib and Mason Fakru Sahib of Sanagalagudur village have saved Rs. 400 and 100 respectively. Madiga Palligadu of Sengalagudur repaid debts and also saved some money with which he erected a thatched house for himself.

Coimbatore district.—Fifteen Boyars of Arasampalayam have constructed 15 new houses out of their savings. Peria Payyan, son of Rama Gounder of Palingipuram, Bhavani taluk, has purchased five goats worth of R. 100. Chinnasami Chettiar, son of Chokkappa Chettiar of Thavuttupalayam has purchased jewels worth Rs. 300. Lakshmana Mudali of Jambai has purchased a bullock cart worth Rs. 200. Veerappa Mudali of Olagadam has cleared a debt of Rs. 200.

Kurnool district.—In Markapur division, Puma Murgan and Gayam Naganna purchased two she-buffaloes each costing Rs. 120 out of their savings.

TOPICAL ARTICLES

Rural Development

It is common place that India is a country of villages. Their total number is estimated to be 700,000. Madras accounts for roughly 50,000 of them. The total number of towns in India, it has been stated do not exceed 2,500. It has been said that roughly more than 8 persons of every 10 in India live in villages, while four out of every five persons in England live in towns. So the prosperity of India means the prosperity of the rural folk. Recently a writer has observed that in future India, we have to look for prosperity more to villages than to towns. It is a significant fact that there is a wide realization of this fact all over Free India. Both Provincial and Central Governments have initiated a concerted drive towards rural rehabilitation. The Madras Government have already constituted a Firka Development Department which has envisaged an intensive drive for rural development. In this connection, an article under the above caption by Dr. J. C. Kumarappa in the Harijan *dated 24th November 1947 may interest the readers. The article runs as follows :—*

Now that the political wash consequent on the British leaving India is dying down, the Governments are thinking in terms of rural development once again. Therefore, it will be necessary for us to consider the lines on which this work could be done. In the main there are three forms in which this programme may be approached.

1. We may look upon the villages as possible sources of raw material supply to the mills situated in the towns.

2. The rural population may be regarded as the main consumers or markets for the production of towns.

3. The village may be looked upon as an entity in itself affording complete facilities for the development of the individuals composing the population of the village.

As Sources of Raw Materials

When the village is looked upon as producer of raw materials for the towns and cities, the whole economic order is shaped according to the needs of the town-dwellers. Often the villagers are exploited and do not enjoy all the fruits of their labour. The fields are utilized for growing crops which are not directly connected with the needs of the villagers. The regulation of crop-growing is done by the price mechanism in which money plays the leading role. Under the pretext of placing more purchasing power in the hands of the villagers the towns make the villager do what the town wants even though it may ultimately prove to be inimical to the interests of the villagers. Raw material crops such as long staple cotton, sugarcane and tobacco, drive out food crops and the people are left to face starvation in spite of having much purchasing power in their hands, which latter also may be represented by inflated currency tokens.

Under this system of rural development the villages cannot flourish. Their interests are secondary to the requirements of mills and town-dwellers. Unfortunately the present day economic order encourages people to proceed on these lines.

As Markets

Similar to the type of rural development that we saw in the first instance, attempts are being made to convert the villagers into consumers of the production from towns. Here again the price mechanism is allowed free play and the villagers are driven to buy town-made goods as being cheap. Apart from our own towns this outlook is one in which foreigners also are interested in making our enormous population into an insatiable market for their products. Articles such as polished rice, millground flour, tea, coffee, sugar, preserved foods, vanaspati oil, rubber shoes, mill cloth, etc., are being dumped on the villagers against their own interests. Here again the villagers are being deprived of their opportunities of employing themselves in various industries and in the processing of food. Thus their field of work is restricted and the pressure on land is increased.

In the above two methods of rural development the needs of the villagers are not the deciding factors and much less the consideration of opportunities for the development of the citizen's personality.

Personality—Centered

We have to consider whether the material interests of the towns and the cities are more important than the interests of the villager himself. If so, the first two methods of rural development will have to yield place to a system that will centre, not on the material production and distribution alone, but on making the villager into a worthy citizen of a democratic State. We look upon work as a means through which an individual could be educated. Of course, in the process the individual will also be producing articles for his own consumption. The villager has to be an entity in himself. To this end the whole social, economic and political structure will have to be moulded to enable the citizen to develop himself from childhood to old age. The village economy ought to be a training ground in the various phases of human development.

Social

The needs of society in the form of water-supply, communications, health and hygiene, disposal of waste, satisfactory housing, etc., will have to be looked after by the people themselves. Education of the children through a craft, to train them for the art of living, in logical method and good conduct with moral considerations as background, will also be a duty falling on the people.

Economic

The people will have to organize themselves in such a way as to enable them to produce all their requirements in food, clothing and shelter. For this purpose the land available may have to be apportioned according to the needs of a balanced diet, and with reference to the quality of land and availability of water. They should raise cereals, pulses, oil seeds, fruits and vegetables, and dairy products to supply, as far as possible, the whole needs of the village and where there is a surplus that surplus could be exchanged with other neighbouring localities for articles which they require.

The processing of this agricultural production will provide a considerable amount of occupation to persons who are not required on the land. Pottery, tanning, oil-pressing, gurmaking, spinning and weaving, carpentry and blacksmithy will provide outlets for people's requirements in art and for

a fuller expression of their emotional personality. Fairs and festivities should also be organized to enable them not only to market their goods, but also to produce a culture based on village life.

Political

The control of all these aspects of life will have to be done on a democratic basis by the organization of the village panchayats which will not only control the social and economic life but will also mete out justice and to some extent raise funds necessary for the administration and execution of an overall plan for all the activities of the village or locality.

Conclusion

Unless we take to the third method of rural development with our interests centred on the villages, it will be futile for us to hope to be able to solve our problems in a democracy, as the people will not be sufficiently educated to bear this great responsibility. While our country is preparing plans for our future, it is necessary for us to bear these different aspects of rural development in mind so that the plans that are made out now will bear fruit according to our requirements in due time without creating further complications not only in our country but also in relationship with other peoples of the world. Our form of rural development, therefore, will, in the main, be based on self-sufficiency. So long as every member of the society aims at this ultimately, there could be no shortage of goods, especially in primary necessities; and there should be no commerce and trade in such articles if we wish to establish peace among the nations.

Such a scheme of rural development will not be a patch work made by Government officials according to the whims of the various departments, but being based on self-help and local contribution in labour and in kind, it will be an ideal training ground in the art of living which is a laudable end in itself.

Fruit Production in India

Man power is the chief motive force in the economic system of India. So, obviously the efficiency of the economic system depends upon the efficiency of man power. And the food that one takes is an important contributory factor in promoting efficiency. There is a greater recognition of this fact in the recent past and Nutrition experts are working in several provinces including Madras to advise the people as to the best course of food calculated to promote health.

One drawback in regard to the common Indian diet is that it is not balanced. Unbalanced diet retards public health. Experts have observed that common people in this country do not take a sufficient quantity of fruits. Fruit is a protective food and its consumption is essential if a proper level of health is to be maintained. The production of fruits in India is not sufficient and it has to be stepped up, in the event of its wider consumption. The **Indian Information** *has recently published an article entitled, "Food Production in India" and it gives a clear picture of the position. The following is the full text of the article :—*

It is authoritatively stated that a 100 per cent increase in fruit production in India is essential to meet the minimum requirements of the country. This can be secured by increasing the acreage under fruits, and by improving cultural practices in existing orchards, for increasing the yields per acre.

Some of the steps taken by the Government of India, to develop the fruit industry both from the production point of view, and for making increased production available for consumption in larger quantities, include financial assistance to Provincial Governments and States, the establishment of nurseries and the training of personnel.

The growing of short-term fruit like bananas and pine apple have been encouraged, and in Bihar alone the acreage under fruits has been increased by 7,543 acres, which will yield an additional 23,000 tons of fruits from next year.

Establishment of Nurseries

Total yields in case of fruit trees, depend partly upon their inherent capacity to bear fruit and partly upon the care and attention paid to them. The growth of pedigree nursery plants has been regarded as the soundest and surest single factor to make the fruit industry a profitable proposition. The Central Agriculture Department has therefore assisted in the establishment of fruit nurseries by Provincial Governments, for supplying genuine plants to prospective growers. Such nurseries are already in operation in some Provinces and others will soon follow suit.

The Government of India have also encouraged Provincial Governments to start horticultural classes for the training of gardeners. It is hoped to have one trained gardener for every 20 acres of orchard area.

To meet the demand for technical graduates in horticulture, the Government of India have instituted a one-year post-graduate course for the benefit of Provincial Governments and States.

As a result of better cultural operations, including adequate manuring, better hygiene, proper cultivation, timely irrigation and judicious pruning, it is stated that 3,700 tons of additional fruits have been produced during last year.

Fruit Preservation

To popularise fruit preservation as a cottage industry, short courses in fruit and vegetable preservation have been given at different women's educational institutions in Delhi, since August last year. In addition an advanced course was started in October last year which is being attended by 22 lady students from different parts of India.

To carry out research on fruit, to secure trained technicians, and to tender advice to the industry, the Indian Institute of Fruit Technology now functioning at Lyallpur on a small scale, will be established in New Delhi in the current year. For this the necessary funds have been provided, and the staff is being recruited for study abroad.

The growing importance of the Indian fruit industry has been recognized by the protection recently granted to it by the Government, on the recommendation of the Indian Tariff Board.

The Role of Co-operation in Rural Economy

The role of co-operation in rural reconstruction cannot be over emphasised. It is now common ground that the salvation of this country lies largely in the path of co-operation. The Royal Commission on Indian Agriculture has already stressed this fact. More than one writer have also emphasised the dictum "no co-operation, no progress." Happily there is now an ever increasing realization of the truth of this fact and Governments all over India have formulated long range schemes which when implemented would result in giving co-operation, its deserved place especially in the sphere of village economy. In this connection, the speech of Hon'ble Mr. M. B. Patil, Minister of the Bombay Government delivered recently at the Bombay Annual Co-operative Conference is of topical interest. A summary is given below.

A spirited plea for the efficient working and administration of the various types of co-operative societies in order to help the rural population of the Province to reorganize its economic life on a sound basis was made by Mr. M. P. Patil.

"It is my firm belief" he said "that unless the improvements recommended and carried out through the Agricultural Department are ultimately propagated through an organization like a co-operative society, particularly in the rural areas, no permanent improvements in the agricultural industry can be possible. It is these small societies, I mean the agricultural primaries and other group societies, that can alone take the torch of light to the ultimate producer."

Problems of Marketing

"In these days of complicated economy, marketing of agricultural produce has assumed almost a technical importance. The unorganized small producer, as a consequence, is not able to obtain adequate returns for his produce unless he is assisted in the art of selling that produce. Experience has showed us— particularly after the last depression which preceded the second world war—that mere supply of capital for agricultural industry through organized credit is not sufficient to help the producer to better his lot. It is not the mere credit that an agriculturist needs, but rather controlled credit, which alone is useful to him in his present-day conditions when he is unorganized and ignorant. What I want to emphasise is that unless, while granting credit needed for agricultural industry, arrangements for supply of agricultural and domestic requirements as also for marketing of his farm produce are made, the credit granted is in danger of being misapplied. The importance of organization and development of marketing societies, which alone can establish faster links between credit and marketing, comes to the forefront for this reason.

Difficulties in the path

"As time goes on, co-operative societies will have a greater and more decisive role to play and a more onerous task to perform in the planned economy of the future.

"The task of setting up the important marketing machinery includes, among other things, (1) assembling, (2) storing, (3) financing, (4) ensuring, (5) standardizing, (6) selling and (7) transporting." All these aspects of the whole machinery have to be taken note of before a proper machinery can be set up.

"The other point is regarding adequate storage arrangements for agricultural produce in the rural areas in this Province. Co-operative marketing organizations, which can help agriculturists to pool their produce, must have at their command as also regulated markets, adequate warehousing facilities for the storage of produce in order to enable the growers to take advantage of favourable markets. It is a common experience for us all to find that agriculturists have always to sell their produce at a time when the prices are the lowest and borrow for their needs when the prices go up. It is to meet this evil that such warehousing facilities are essential. Short-term credit on the security of easily realisable produce, is only possible, if proper storage arrangements under proper supervision and control are available. The licensing of warehouses envisages all this establishment under proper control and supervision.

"Co-operative organizations, after all, require public-spirited men and their success will naturally depend upon this imporatnt condition. Areas where such men are available in large numbers will naturally develop, while those others, where this condition would not be satisfied, will remain co-operatively backward.

"The best way to assist the rural population is to help the working and administration of these democratic institutions and the Gram Panchayats in the rural areas of this Province."

Glimpses into the Refugee Camps

[The Editorial staff of the Information and Publicity Department of the Madras Government recently paid a visit to the Refugee Camps in Madras. Some of the impressions of this visit are set down in this article.]

The Refugee problem has been truly described as an All-India problem. The burden of rehabilitating millions of refugees, who have been cut off from their moorings all on a sudden has fallen with equal suddenness on the Government of India and it is only in the fitness of things that the province and States constituting the Indian Dominion should also share the burden. It is gratifying, therefore, to note that almost all the provinces and many of the States came forward offering to accommodate a reasonable number of refugees within their respective areas. Madras also, like other provinces, realised their obligations and offered to take refugees from the North. Following this offer, refugees from the Punjab and Sind have been arriving in batches. South Indian residents in Karachi, who got stranded there, are also being received in Madras, and despatched to their respective destinations in the province with tickets and money to meet their needs.

The other refugees from the North have been accommodated in three camps, viz., the Lutterals Gardens in Kilpauk, Holiday camp at Saidapet and the Malayan Emigration Depot at Avadi. Of these, the Lutterals Garden

is the main camp accommodating the largest number of refugees consisting of men, women and children. This camp covers an extensive ground within the city limits with a spacious upstair bungalow located inside. There are a number of lesser structures too, which are also under the occupation of refugees. A Special Deputy Collector is primarily in charge of these camps. Most of the refugees from the Punjab belong to the well-to-do or the upper classes. There are old men and women, youngsters and children. Most of them owned extensive landed properties in the Punjab and they had to come away leaving everything behind and with empty hands. Some of the refugees have long stories to give of their experiences. One refugee—a sprightly young man, who was described as a hockey player of international reputation, possessed properties worth lakhs and at present he has little or no idea of the fate of his properties or the whereabouts of his relations. The Sindhi refugees seem to be of a different type. They are shrewd businessmen and during the short time of their stay in Madras have shown ample signs of their business acumen. Some of them have already set up business of their own. Generally the refugees do not like to keep quiet, and many of them have applied for jobs. The women from the Punjab are experts in embroidary work and some of their products disclose a high degree of workmanship. It is said that most of the refugees, though they are without money of their own generally decline to receive private charity. Perhaps their robust sense of self-respect has survived their worst calamities. These refugees, both men, women and children, have a cheerful appearance inspite of their bitter experiences and the fortitude with which they have borne their calamities, would unfailingly evoke the spontaneous admiration of anybody coming into contact with them. The fact that these calamities have been due to factors beyond their control, entitles them to greater compassion.

The refugee camp at Saidapet is occupied by persons who have come away without their families or relations. Their misfortunes seem to sit heavily on them. One of them said that he belonged to Lahore and that there were 19 members in his family. At present he does not know the whereabouts of any of them. He is a sturdy young man, who said that he has already applied for a job here but has not so far received any offer. This camp also covers extensive grounds situated near the Engineering College, Guindy with a number of houses including a main building. The camp is immediately in charge of a Captain, recruited from one of the refugees.

The only silver lining in the dark sky of these refugees is the elaborate arrangements made by the Government to attend to their comforts and make them forget their cares and worries. Provision stores have been opened in the camps and refugees make their purchases. The refugees cook their own food. In the Lutterals Gardens there is a dispensary to treat the ailments of the refugees. Sanitation and public health of the camp there are under the charge of a Health Inspector. A school for the refugees has also been started there and refugee teachers are engaging the classes. Many of the children are bright looking and smart and do not seem to feel their present plight. One boy however declained to attend the school on the ground that his school building had no pretentious appearance. (The classes are held in tents) Apparently he is one, who was born with a silver spoon in his mouth and who could not reconcile himself to his present lot. Most of the refugees express their willingness to go back, provided they are guaranteed security of life and properties.

Free India has a number of problems and the Refugee problem is by no means the least important. This problem may, however, be only a passing phase in the evolution of India and sooner or later things may settle down in their proper perspective. But adv i'ies have their own good sides. The dispersal of refugees all over India and the humanitarian efforts of the various Provincial Governments to identify themselves with their difficulties have certainly cemented the bonds existing between the different provinces and forged new links welding them together with hoops of steel. Out of this vast co-operative humanitarian efforts is sure to emerge a more solid India.

Miscellaneous Topics

Steel, Cement and Textiles

The total quantity of iron and steel at the disposal of India (including Pakistan) was 924,058 tons in 1946 and 781,210 tons in 1947, up to September.

A total allotment of 188,465 tons of steel has been made for the Provinces of India and Pakistan and for the States. A statement laid on the table of the Central Assembly of the Indian Dominion by the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji, Minister of Industry and Supply, contains these figures. The statement adds that the figure given above relating to the allotment of steel includes only allotments made to the Provinces and States for distribution to the general public including small-scale manufacturers on consumer goods. Besides this, steel is also distributed to Provincial Governments for their developnent schemes, and to private industries in the Provinces and States for steel processing, industrial development and maintenance requirements.

The production of cement during 1946 in factories in the Indian Union was 1,542,326 tons. The production in these factories for the nine months ending September 30, 1947, has been 1,029,812 tons. The estimated production for 1947 will, on this basis, be about 1,375,000 tons. The maximum annual capacity of the existing factories however, is 2,075,000 tons. Production has been affected, among other causes, by inadequate supplies of coal and by labour troubles.

OBSTACLES TO PRODUCTION

"The recent decline in the production of consumer as of other goods, and the inability to create new capacity are principally due to unsettled labour conditions, civil disturbances in certain parts of the country, and shortages of transport to meet the present enlarged demands of the country, of coal and of certain essential raw materials.

"The aforesaid causes themselves suggest the remedial action necessary."

—THE HON'BLE DR. SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJI *in reply to a question.*

This year in April arrangements were made with the railway authorities to provide better transport facilities to cement factories. The cement industry was also asked to apply its organization to the study of transport conditions in the various Provinces and States and to closer co-ordination with the Railways. The cement industry responded well to the Government's request, and had it not been for their co-operation and the help rendered by the Railway authorities conditions would have been worse than they are now. These efforts, however, have been seriously impaired by the recent disturbances.

Mill Cloth Production in India

The total quantity of mill cloth produced in the Indian Union averages 302 million yards a month. The following were the cotton textile goods imported into the Indian Union during the period April-June 1947: cotton piecegoods 8,408,366 yards; fents 2,969 254 yards; cotton thread, 507,266 lb.; cotton twist and yarn, 330,048 lb.; canvas, 15,857 yards; handkerchiefs and shawals, 347,107 in number; stockings and socks, 30,863 lb.; underwear, 3,997 lb.; lace and net, 362,636 yards; cotton ropes, 90,770 lb; cotton blankets, 352 lb.; cotton goods mixed with other materials, 2,009 yards; and cotton manufactures, other sorts, 21,063 lb.

Spot Light on Rampachodavaram

[Rampachodavaram has been of late so much in the news. It is therefore dconsidered esirable to issue a detailed statement on the condition of Public Health in that area.]

Allegations were made on the floor of the Legislative Assembly on the 25th of September that there had been 14 deaths in the Rampachodavaram Agency area in the East Godavari district, due to starvation. The allegations were immediately refuted on the same day, after getting information from the Collector. Later in the day, Mr. Prakasam read out the names of the persons who were alleged to have died. The names were communicated to the Collector, who reported over the phone on the 26th that out of the 14 reported dead, one was still living and that the causes of death of the other 13 were normal and not due to starvation. The Assembly was posted with the information on the 26th evening.

In the meantime a detailed report was received from the Collector refuting the allegations. The Collector's report was supported by sworn statements obtained from two persons who gave the information who confessed that their original report was based upon hearsay and that they had not verified their accuracy before giving currency to the rumour. It was also supported by statements taken from influential ryots, village munsifs and the local Health Inspector and Medical Officer, all of which went to prove that there were no deaths due to starvation in the area and that the people were not resorting to abnormal diet on account of scarcity of foodgrains. The Government published a press statement containing all these facts.

However, reports continued to appear in the press that Mr. Prakasam reiterated that there were deaths due to starvation in the area. In order to have complete information on the matter, the Collector was asked to submit information about the number of deaths in the area this year and in the corresponding period last year and whether there was any increase in deaths due to starvation. He was also asked to take steps to keep the area well-supplied with foodgrains. From the detailed report sent by the Collector, after personally inspecting several muttas, in the tract and making detailed inquiries, the following facts are borne out clearly :—

1. Both the persons who originally gave currency to the allegation have subsequently given sworn statements that they merely conveyed hear-say information without ascertaining the facts. One of the informants has also recorded in his statement that he was satisfied that the situation was not as serious as was reported.

2. The District Health Officer made a detailed enquiry to find out if there was abnormal incidence of diseases in this area. He was satisfied that the public health conditions in the villages he visited were as normal and satisfactory as could be expected in the Agency area during this part of the year. In this area during the second half of the year fevers, like malaria and respiratory diseases such as bronchitis are usually widely prevalent. Apart from this usual feature there was no evidence of abnormal physical debility either among the adults or among the children.

The following figures collected, from six representative villages by the Health Officer, will illustrate the truth of the statements :—

TOTAL DEATHS IN THE SIX VILLAGES.

Year	1944	1945	1946	*1947
Total deaths	38	25	22	30

* (Nine months.)

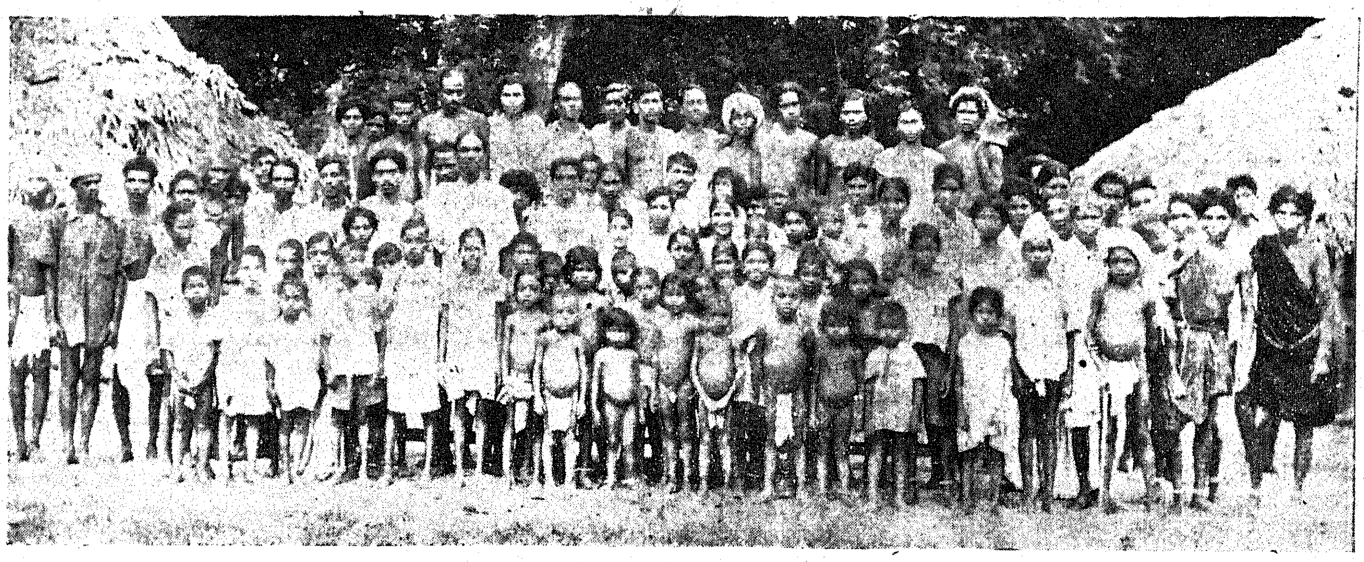
The monsoon was late and the rainfall was scanty during 1945-46 whereas the unusually heavy rains during July, August and September of this year, after a prolonged period of comparative draught have given rise to conditions, favourable for the spread of malaria and other fevers, resulting in a high mortality rate during the third quarter of this year. The number of deaths due to diarrhœa and other diseases connected with mal-nutrition during the months of August and September in 1946 and 1947 in the six villages are given below :—

Year.	August.	September.
1946 ..	1	1
1947 ..	..	1

There is thus no increase in diseases due to mal-nutrition during August and September of this year. The deaths during these months in these six villages total 13 as against five during the corresponding two months in the previous years. The increase during this year is not due to diseases connected with mal-nutrition, but due to malaria, other fevers and dysentery. The number of patients treated during July, August and September in the Taluk Headquarters Hospital of Rampachodavaram for the various diseases is furnished below.

It will be seen from this that the number of patients treated for diarrhœa and other diseases of the digestive system is less in 1947 than in 1946. A marked increase under these heads should have been recorded if starvation conditions were prevalent. There is therefore, no reason to believe that diseases connected with mal-nutrition were prevalent during the three months of July, August and September of this year.

The photographs taken of the people in the Agency areas, which are published alongside, do not warrant the



The bloated bellies noticed in the case of many children are due to splenic enlargements which complaint is not peculiar to this year alone but more or less endemic in the Agency area

statement that there is starvation in the villages. The bloated bellies noticed in the case of many children are due to splenic enlargement, which complaint is not peculiar to this year alone but more or less endemic in the Agency area. The note on the conditions in the Rampachodavaram Agency prepared by Mr. V. N. Seshagiri Rao, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, in the year 1931, can be cited in support of this fact.

The note mentioned above also furnishes information about the diet of the people of this area. The Koya population are used to *sanalu*, *gentulu*, *jonnalu*, *korralu*, supplemented by bamboo shoots, roots of certain plants, tamarind seeds powder, mango seeds kernel, all the edible fruits available and the meat of most of the animals. They do not depend upon rice for their food. It will thus be found that the diet alleged to have been taken by these people due to starvation is really the normal diet to which they have been accustomed even in ordinary conditions.

There was no doubt a partial failure of hill cholam in these tracts, due to failure of rains last year. It was due to this fact that until the 15th of September 1947, a specific quota of 260 bags of rice per week for the several mittas in Rampachodavaram was being sent regularly this year as against the 150 bags in the previous year. After the 15th of September, the quota has been increased to 400 bags per week. It is to be noted that this Agency is outside the rationing area, both statutory and non-statutory and that this supply was made purely in order to enable the people to supplement their usual diet with rice.

The original allegations that some people died on account of starvation having been proved untrue, attempts are now being made to make out that these people died on account of lack of vitality due to starvation over a long period. The facts mentioned above must be sufficient to prove that even this is not correct.

Under instructions of the Government, the Nutrition Officer toured the area during the first week of November 1947, and visited fifteen villages. He saw a large number of adults in the area and interrogated the residents of the Rampachodavaram taluk about the food situation in general, and the prevalence of starvation, if any, in the taluk. He found that none of the people showed any signs of starvation and none of them complained that starvation is prevalent in the villages. His report also confirms what has been stated above that it is not unusual for the inhabitants of the area to depend upon forest products and that there was no dearth of grains in the area.

Particulars of patients treated in the L.F. Taluk Headquarters Dispensary at Rampachodavaram during 1946 *and* 1947.

Disease.	1946				1947			
	July.	August.	September.	Total.	July.	August.	September.	Total.
1. Diarrhœa	16	10	20	46	6	15	26	47
2. Digestive	75	127	120	322	81	81	88	250
3. Dysentery	5	13	9	27	9	20	8	37
4. Fevers	15	60	52	127	17	24	15	56
5. Malaria	125	148	175	448	123	135	186	444
6. Respiratory	46	46	72	164	45	43	72	160
7. Circulatory (including blood and spleen).	48	60	26	134	69	70	90	229
8. Nerves system	21	35	38	94	27	40	57	124
9. Total including all other diseases treated.	657	771	925	2,353	705	828	897	2,430

Diet Surveys in the Province

Coimbatore District

The Public are aware that the Government have selected one firka in each district of the Province for intensive rural reconstruction work so that the firka, when developed, might serve as a model for the other firkas in this district. Rural reconstruction work in any area has many facets and unless a concerted drive is initiated on all fronts, there is little possibility of satisfactory results being achieved. The improvement of the public health of the locality, the enhancement of the daily income of the masses, the promotion of agriculture and industries, the raising of the standard of living are a few of the many problems to be tackled in the process of rural reconstruction.

Of these, improvement of public health is the most important, as without public health, progress in other directions is bound to be slow, even if it is not actually retarded. And in the promotion of public health, food plays an important part. In recent times, therefore, special efforts have been made in many countries to survey the dietary habits of the people in order to assess their nutritive values and improve them wherever possible. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, successful national food management consists of political and administrative skill in applying scientific and statistical knowledge to the improvement of human nutrition and agriculture.

2. The Madras Government have directed diet surveys to be undertaken in more than one district in the Province, preference being given to areas selected for intensive rural reconstruction work. Vellakoil Firka in the Coimbatore district is one such area, where a diet survey was recently completed. The results are as follows.

3. The seventy families who agreed to co-operate in this intensive investigation fall into seven groups.

The first group consisted of thirty-four families of land holders of varying sizes.

The second group consisted of fourteen families of labourers, mainly depending on agricultural operations for their income.

The third group was of nine families of carpenters, blacksmiths, etc.

The fourth group consisted of three families (a teacher, a karnam and a warden of a hostel).

The fifth group consisted of three families of petty shop-keepers.

The sixth group consisted of three families of weavers, while the last four families were those of temple servants.

4. The average calorie value of the food consumed is 2,710 as against the minimum calorie requirements of about 2,500—2,600 calories per adult a day. In this connection, it may be of interest to specify the approximate composition of a cheap, but well-balanced diet.

Cereals (rice and millets).	About	15 oz.
Milk	,,	8 oz.
Pulses	,,	2 to 3 oz.
Non-leafy vegetables.	,,	6 oz.
Green leafy vegetables.	,,	4 oz.
Fats and Oils ..	,,	2 oz.
Fruits	,,	2 oz.

If fish and meat are available, adjustments in the intake of milk and pulses should be made.

A few details of the survey are given below :—

Cereals.—An analysis of the nature of the staple diet consumed by different families surveyed revealed that fourteen families depended wholly on rice and three on millets, while the rest, namely, fifty-three families, consumed a mixed diet of rice and millets.

Pulses.—Every one of these families consumed pulses in some proportion or other. The presence of a large quantity of cereals in any diet, and the absence of animal proteins, make pulses an important ingredient, in the diet of poor families. The consumption of pulses ranged from 1·4 oz. to 2·3 oz. per man value in the different groups.

Meat.—While most of the families had no objection to the consumption of meat, the actual consumption was in very small quantities, ranging from 0·1 ounce to 0·3 ounce per man value.

Protective foods — Milk. — Milk includes products of milk, such as curds and buttermilk and the consumption of all these in terms of milk ranged from an average of 3 oz. in the group of temple servants to 8·3 oz. in the case of landed agriculturists. Milk yields very easily digestible animal proteins.

Leafy vegetables.—Some of the protective foods such as leafy vegetables and fruits were consumed in very small quantities in this area as a whole. The consumption of leafy vegetables and fruits was very low in most of the families under survey.

Non-leafy vegetables.—The average for the different groups ranged from 1·6 ounces to 2·2 ounces. This is not satisfactory.

Other foods.—Jaggery was being regularly consumed in reasonably good quantities in this area. Such consumption naturally increases the calorie value of the diet in times of emergency.

Vegetable oils.—As between different groups, the consumption ranged from 0·4 ounce to 1·8 ounces per consumption unit.

About 625 children in different villages in the firka were closely examined for signs of deficiency diseases amongst them. The examination revealed an incidence of 1·3 per cent of Angular Stomatitis, 2 per cent of Phrynoderma and 3·3 per cent of Xerosis. In many instances, heights and weights of the children were also taken.

It has been generally accepted that a diet which yields about 2,500 calories daily for each adult, can be considered satisfactory under South Indian conditions. On this basis, the average calorie value of the diets of all groups, excepting the three small groups of petty merchants, temple servants and weavers, was definitely above 2,500, while the average calorie value of the diets of these three groups ranged between 1,960—2,000. The average calorie value for all the families under investigation was about 2,710. The inference is, therefore, justifiable that this area is not badly off from the nutritional point of view. There was not much evidence of quantitative insufficiency in this locality. Qualitatively, the diets were not very much deficient in proteins. The average consumption of milk was in the neighbourhood of about 7 oz. per man value daily, while that of pulses was about 2 oz. A greater consumption of pulses could with advantage be encouraged consistent with the productive capacity of the area.

The consumption of leafy vegetables is regrettably low. The main deficiency in this area appears to be the short supply of these cheap but highly nutritious articles of food. Low consumption of leafy vegetables is calculated to affect the quality of the diet, since they are a rich source of mineral elements.

There is very little evidence of malnutrition in the children examined. This is very satisfactory, as the health of the children provides a reliable index of the satisfactory nature or otherwise of the food problem in an area.

South Kanara District

The Nutrition Officer toured the Kasaragod taluk in the third week of October and the results of his investigations are set down below :—

In the course of his tour he contacted groups of villagers, public workers, popular leaders, lawyers and interviewed members of other professions. These form a cross-section of the population in the district and the opinion expressed by them generally indicates that neither the alleged breakdown of rationing nor the story of starvation has any reasonable basis.

The view was expressed to the Nutrition Officer that there was an increasing tendency on the part of the people to depend solely on the Government for food without themselves doing anything appreciable to increase production. It was suggested that even people who had not been accustomed to rice were demanding rice. Then again it was observed that complaints from the poorer sections of the population were due more to their increased purchasing capacity than to any breakdown in rationing. There was a tendency among people to grumble because they considered that the quantity of ration was not sufficient and the quality was not up to their expectations. Sometimes the ground of complaint was that paddy or rice was given only for six days in a week and the cereal ration was given in some other form—milo or cholam on the 7th day. The general desire was that the entire ration should be given in the form of paddy or rice. There was also a misconception as to what constituted starvation. The general notion was that failure to get enough rice to satisfy hunger constituted starvation, no matter whether people got other things like fruit, vegetables, fish, meat, etc., to eat or not.

In point of fact the position in the Kasaragod taluk of South Kanara was not such as to cause any extraordinary concern. The consensus of opinion as ascertained by the Nutrition Officer was that there were no deaths due to starvation and that informal rationing was working satisfactorily. The basic cause for dissatisfaction was that while statutory rationing was in operation in the adjoining district of Malabar, South Kanara had only informal rationing. There was a keen demand that statutory rationing should be extended to all rural areas in the district.

The Nutrition Officer observes that sweet potatoes are grown in plenty in the district and consumed in good quantities by the people as a daily routine. Fish also is consumed, especially in the coastal areas. These with jack fruit and mangoes in turn, bananas and coconut, supplement the ration.

The Nutrition Officer also took occasion to examine school children. About 800 boys and girls were examined and their general health was found satisfactory.

Guntur District

During the last week of October 1947 the Nutrition Officer visited 16 places in Vinukonda taluk in Guntur district to investigate the state of public health in the taluk. In the course of his tour, he met various officials and non-officials and formed the following impressions about the dietetic habits of the villagers and the general food situation in the area.

Generally speaking, the staple article of diet of the population in this taluk is either kumbu or korra or cholam or ragi or a combination of these millets. The millets are raised in different parts of the taluk, especially cumbu and korra. Rice is grown in patches and the outturn constitutes a very small proportion of the total requirements. On the whole, the agricultural population appear to be raising staple millets almost up to the full extent of their requirements and there is very little ground for any anxiety regarding these people. At a conservative estimate, it may be said that on an average each adult consumes a pound of cleaned millets daily. Pulses especially redgram and horsegram, are grown in abundance in this taluk. Consequently the consumption of pulses in the taluk appears to be fairly high. On an average, it may be in the neighbourhood of 2 to 3 ounces per adult per day. The local population are also maintaining a good number of cattle, and thus milk and milk products are available to the local population in reasonable quantities. The local population have got a contempt for groundnuts and so it can be said that there is very little consumption of groundnut or groundnut oil in this taluk.

Children of the agricultural population are maintaining satisfactory health and little evidence of deficiency diseases is noticeable among them. Availability of milk and milk products is responsible for keeping up the health of the population at a satisfactory level.

The consumption of vegetables is very much low. Cucumber is raised in plenty and is usually the only vegetable consumed by the population in addition to Gonkura (a leafy vegetable) which is also raised here and there. Meat (especially mutton) is very cheap but people do not appear to use meat much except on a few festive occasions. In Vinukonda town vegetables are in short supply, while milk and milk products are sold at comparatively high prices. A good percentage of the population of Vinukonda town is not engaged in agricultural operations and consequently this class of people are not as healthy as the agricultural population. It is said that pulses are boiled and mixed with jaggery and consumed by the non-agricultural labour classes in fairly large quantities, resulting in digestive troubles. Fruits appear to be rare in this area and even cheap plantains are not found. Fish is a rare commodity.

One general feature in the villages of Vinukonda taluk is that large numbers of school-going children go to work in the fields regularly during the harvest season in order to obtain some grain as wages for their work. Most of the labour employed in agricultural operations is paid in kind. Consequently, every family takes advantage of the agricultural operations to provide itself with the required quantities of millets, etc. The population on the whole does not clamour for supplies of rice for consumption, though some in Vinukonda town itself demand an allotment of that commodity. It is stated that the rationing system is to a certain extent responsible for "educating" the Vinukonda people to demand rice. Vinukonda raises only a limited rice crop and the taluk has to depend on outside supplies for satisfying the needs of rice ration-card holders. Wherever the Nutrition Officer went, he enquired of the population if they had known or heard of any cases of death due to starvation. He was told that there were no such cases.

The Nutrition Officer examined 482 school children for signs of deficiency diseases. About 10 per cent of them exhibited mild signs of Xerosis, while about 1½ per cent were found to be suffering from Angular Stomatitis.

On the whole the health of the population was found to be satisfactory.

The Tungabhadra Project

Hon'ble Minister for Public Works inspects the area

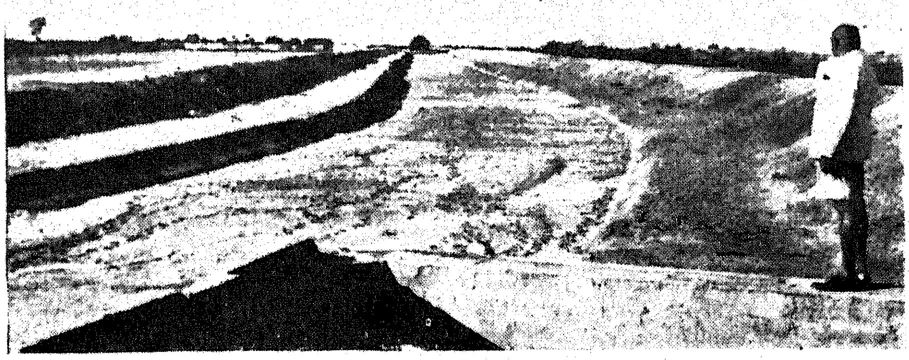
A Monumental Work

Elsewhere in this issue appear other pictures on the Tungabhadra Project. This project is admittedly one of the grandest that has ever been conceived in this country. It is now in progress and when completed is expected to bring lakhs of acres under cultivation. The genesis of this project my be briefly indicated.

One of the worst affected areas in point of rainfall in this province are the Ceded districts, Bellary, Anantapur, Cuddapah and Kurnool. The average annual rainfall of this area is 22 inches and sometimes it goes so low as 8 inches. The scanty rainfall and its irregular distribution have contributed to make this area famine ridden once in 5 years on an average. As a result, the Government have had to spend to the tune of crores of rupees on famine relief. This state of affairs caused concern to the Government and they gave thought to the problem of eliminating the spectre of famine permanently from this area. The outcome is the Tungabhadra Project.

Salient Features of the Dam

It will be the joint concern of Madras and Hyderabad, Madras doing the right or southern half. It is expected to cost including canals between Rs. 10 and 17 crores (Madras share). The entire length of the dam will be 8,000 feet, the greatest height being 126 feet except in the rift in the river which is only about 200 feet wide and the height there will be 158 feet. The total contents of the dam will be 30 m.c.ft. of stone masonry. The dam will carry a 22 feet roadway. On the Madras side there will be a low level sluice and also a high level sluice. The high level one is provided for a future contingency of a high level canal.



An excavated reach of the Tungabhadra canal

The Hon'ble Sri M. Bakthavatsalam, Minister for Public Works, Madras Government, made his third visit to the Tungabhadra dam and the canals on the 23rd and 24th November 1947.

Other details

Rapid progress is being made in the excavation of the dam foundations. Nearly 5,000 labourers are working. The Madras side of the dam involves an excavation of 7·0 m.c.ft. mostly of hard rock. The depth of excavation varies from 70 feet at the right end of the dam to 17 feet at surface rock at the river margin. Rock spoil has to be lifted up over lifts of 70 feet as a maximum.

Transport of part of the excavated rock spoil is done by tramming with sentinal locomotives and 1 and 2 c.yd. tipping wagons. This spoil is conveyed 4 to 6 furlongs and used to form the railway embankment for the special railway sidings that are to function shortly.

There are 7 sentinel locomotives; a few of them are engaged in transporting excavated rock to railway siding and a few others are employed in conveying stones required for the dam from the island quarry.

Workshops run by Ruston oil engine and having a few lathes, drills, shaping machines, a few saws, a grinder, oxy-cutting and paint spraying machines, etc., are attending to the repairs of all the mechanical equipment of the dam.

Patterson's of Calcutta and Modern Housing Construction of Madras are building the rapid sand filters and clear water reservoir on the hill slope. The filters will deal with a daily output of 5 lakhs gallons per day. Temporary chlorinated water-supply to the tune of 50,000 gallons per day is being supplied by pumping and by water transport lorries.

Temporary electrification of the camp at the dam site has been made.

Quarters are provided for one Superintending Engineer, two Executive Engineers, one Audit Officer, 15 Subdivisional Officers, about 40 Supervisors, 120 clerks, 80 maistries, 100 peons, 600 permanent and another 600 temporary huts are also provided for artisans and coolies. Except a very few of these buildings, the others have all been completed and occupied.

A telephone exchange with connexions to the trunk line and to the canals is in operation. A hospital,

Hon'ble Minister for Public Works inspected recently the site of the Hagari Aqueduct. Picture shows foundation wells on the right

a co-operative market stall, a co-operative store and a post-office, have been established. Rations are distributed for the entire colony-officers, subordinates, artisans and labourers. A few public conveniences have been put up for the labour colony. Combined offices are under construction and the Audit office and one of the Division offices are already located in a completed building built for the Deputy Tahsildar's office of the camp. A few batchelors' quarters and quarters for Subdivisional officers have been constructed of cement-sand blocks with asbestos roofing.

Malaria has been brought well under control. Systematic D.D.T. and Pyrethrum spraying and supply of paludrine and mepacrine to one and all, inoculation for cholera and typhoid and vaccination are regularly attended to by the Health staff.

A railway station with sidings is under construction.

A Special Deputy Collector looks after the welfare of the camps, colony and labourers and cloth supplied by the Collector are distributed by the Special Deputy Collector to all the labourers. He is also in charge of recruitment and rationing.

A temporary bridge spans the right arm of the Tungabhadra river leading to the island quarry which is to supply most of the stones required for the construction of the dam. This bridge is of 2 lines of 24″ × 7½″ girders, covered by reinforced concrete slabs which carry a tramline. A good metalled road has been laid from Hospet-Narayana Devekere main road to dam site; besides a net work of 5 miles of roads within the camp area has also been formed.

Another Irrigation Project

The Hon'ble Minister for Public Works also visited the Hagari Aqueduct site. The Hagari Aqueduct will be across the Hagari river and will consist of 58 spans of 35 feet supported on wells which are being taken down to 25 feet below bed of the river. The canal will be carried in a reinforced concrete trough of 2 compartments. Over one compartment a 14 feet roadway intended purely for the inspection of the canal will be taken. The approach to the aqueduct is by a high embankment where the canal water level will be 30 feet above the ground level.

The canal as designed will be 210 miles long of which about 30 to 40 miles have been taken up for excavation. A good number of bridges and cross masonry works are already in progress. A labour strength of 5,000 to 7,000 men and women are engaged on the eacavation proper. It is expected that more rapid excavation of the canals will be taken up after excavators which have been indented for from U.S.A. and England arrive.

Tit-Bits

Government Publicity

"The dissemination of correct information through a scheme of planned publicity is part and parcel of the education of the public under a a democaratic Government" observed Hon'ble Mr. Bakthavatsalam, Minister for Public Information, addressing the first meeting of the Publicity Advisory Committee. He continued that this objective had been kept in view by the Congress Government and found reflection in the creation of the Publicity Department.

Cottage Industries

Addressing the annual meeting of the Madras Industries Association, the Hon'ble Minister for Industries Mr. Sitharama Reddi, observed that there must be a harmonious blending of both cottage and large scale industries. He said there was a great scope for cottage industries in this Province. The Government had appointed a Committee to go into the question of planning of industries in Madras. He expected that the report of the committee would be available shortly when they could go ahead in the matter of planning.

Madras-Hyderabad Border

With reference to his recent visit of the Hyderabad-Madras Border areas, Hon'ble the Premier said "the foremost duty of everyone now is to infuse confidence into the people". Influx of refugees, the Premier said has now stopped and similarly the emigration of the people from these areas to Hyderabad had also ceased.

Duty of Public Utility Personnel

"The Government have nationalized public utility services like the M.E.S.C. solely in the interest of the people" said Hon'ble Mr. Bakthavatsalam, Minister for Public Works, recently and the workers employed in them should feel doubly proud that it was given to them to serve the public through an agency which was run by the people themselves. Any loss or gain made in Government run services would affect the people as a whole. The Workers could not afford to be indifferent to loss or gain as in privately-owned services where the owner could make up his loss in various other ways.

Appeal to Caste Hindus

Speaking at Bombay, Mr. V. N. Barve, President of Maharashtra Provincial Harijan Sevak Sangh pleaded for tolerance and broad-mindedness in Caste Hindus, who should not maintain any longer an attitude of cold indifference towards Harijans, who could now under the new dispensation lay claim to equality of treatment in social life. They must on the contrary embrace them and take them closer to their hearts and help them in every possible manner to attain progress in all directions.

Solution for Agrarian Problem

Writing on Agrarian Problem, Professor Dantwalla observed: "My concrete suggestion is, therefore, to organize a Multi-Purpose Society in every village with compulsory membership. The Society will provide the best possible resources to every cultivator. It can charge them for the services rendered, but it will not refuse to render service simply because a cultivator cannot afford it. If this scheme is followed, not in isolation but along with other schemes of economic development, the chances are that in a few years' time every cultivator will be in a position to pay for the best resources, particularly if they are supplied on co-operative and non-profit basis."

OUR DISTRICT NEWS BAG

Uplift Activities in 'Dry' Districts

The uplift activities in prohibition districts continue with increasing vigour. The following is a brief summary :—

Anantapur.—The rural uplift school started at Kadiri completed its course by the 15th October 1947. Forty-five students joined the school and of these 43 completed the course. A taluk tournament was held in October. Eleven teams are reported to have taken part in the tournament.

Chittoor.—In Chandragiri division, a grama sangam and a recreation club were organized by the Assistant Development Officer. Grama sangam at Perur has agreed to start an aided school in their village while the people of Kallur have agreed to organize a co-operative credit society for their place. Rural games were conducted in all the divisions of the district as also inter-village tournaments. A firka tournament was also held in October on an impressive scale. Sixteen surrounding villages took part and games like chahugudu, one-leg race, frog relay, rival heroes and find the treasure, etc., were played. There was also a display of acrobatic skill. There were in addition bajanas and singing of community songs by Harijans. The villagers celebrated the anniversary of prohibition. Thrift day celebrations also took place in several villages and hundi boxes were distributed. The Saving's Scheme was pushed through in all places. Eight dramas were enacted in Madanapalle division and two in Chandragiri division. These attracted large crowds and were widely appreciated. One Weavers' Co-operative Society has purchased a radio set. The rural recreation club at Pudupet opened a reading room and a public library. The significance and importance of the planting was impressed upon the villagers. Twenty-eight trees were planted in 3 villages Cleanliness day was observed in villages. It is also reported that the village betterment committee in one place assisted the Prohibition staff in detecting prohibition offences. Street cleaning drives were also conducted. Arrangements have been made for the manufacture of compost manure to absorb ex-addicts as well as to assist the "Grow More Food Campaign."

Cuddapah.—The fourth rural uplift school was opened at Rayachoti in October 1947 and closed in November. In connexion with the opening, there were entertainments, singing of songs and poems on thrift, etc.

Kurnool.—Rural games, bajanas and songs were the main items of the counter-attraction programme in the district. Street cleaning drives were also sponsored in Kurnool division. One ex-addict saved Rs. 150 and bought a cow. Another purchased a house from his savings. Thrift day was celebrated in some places. In Nandyal division many ex-addicts have constructed huts of their own from their savings. Some ex-addicts have also cleared off their debts.

Bellary.—As usual rural games were conducted in many villages, and the villagers evinced great interest in them. Bajanas, kolattams and folk dances were other items of entertainment during the week. Thrift days were celebrated. Collections exceeding Rs. 1,000 were made on behalf of a grama sangam. 'Kurushetra', a drama in Kanarese, was enacted by ex-addicts in Hospet taluk. Another drama was also enacted by them. two harikatha kalakshepams were given at Adoni. A night school and a free library and a reading room were arranged to be opened at Adoni.

North Arcot.—A rural uplift school was opened in August and closed in September. Fifty-four students completed their course. Previous to the closing of the school, a cottage industry exhibition was conducted. Magic lantern shows by the Veterinary and Health departments were held. Propaganda dramas and taluk tournaments constituted the other main features of the counter-attraction work.

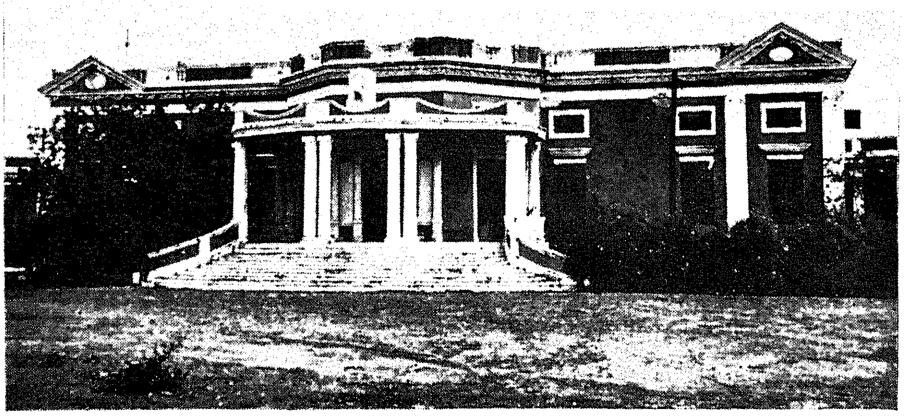
Salem.—The fourth rural uplift school was opened by the Collector in October. Bajanas and street dramas were enacted. In October a conference of the representatives of the jaggery producers in the Omalur taluk and the Salem Co-operative Marketing Society was held and useful decisions taken. Two new volley ball courts were opened in October. Tournaments and rural games were held in many villages and prizes distributed. The weekly bajanas were held in several villages of Hosur taluk in which ex-addicts and Harijans took part.

Coimbatore.—A gram asangam has formed a new road at a cost of Rupees 3,000. Another sangam has formed a flower garden and sunk a well. A third sangam has effected repairs to a village chavadi at a cost of Rs. 100. Two sangams have spent a sum of Rs. 350 and repaired their playgrounds. The Varadanallur Sangam is constructing 3 schools. Village meetings were held in several villages and an aggregate number of 40,000 people are reported to have attended. Tournaments were held in several places. Four grama sangams have purchased radio sets. Several schools constructed were declared open during the month. The Harijans in one place have constructed a school unaided by others. a bajana kudam was constructed in a village at a cost of Rs. 1,000. Three libraries were declared open.

Tanjore.—Preliminary work connected with ameliorative work is in full swing. A thrift campaign has been launched. Village betterment committees have been formed in five places and rural games organized in six places. About 24 ex-addicts are admitted free to cinema shows at Mannargudi. Some of the ex-addicts have purchased cooking utensils from their new savings. One man has saved Rs. 24 since the introduction of prohibition. A milk supplier has saved Rs. 75. In Shiyali taluk, 5 village betterment committees have been formed and in another taluk a rural recreation club was organized.

South Kanara.—During the first week of November 1947, 17 societies for jaggery manufacturing—tappers were registered in this district. These are expected to provide job for nearly 1,500 tappers.

Trichinopoly.—Two milk-supply co-operative societies were organized during November. In one, there are 22 ex-tappers while in the other there are 21 ex-tappers.

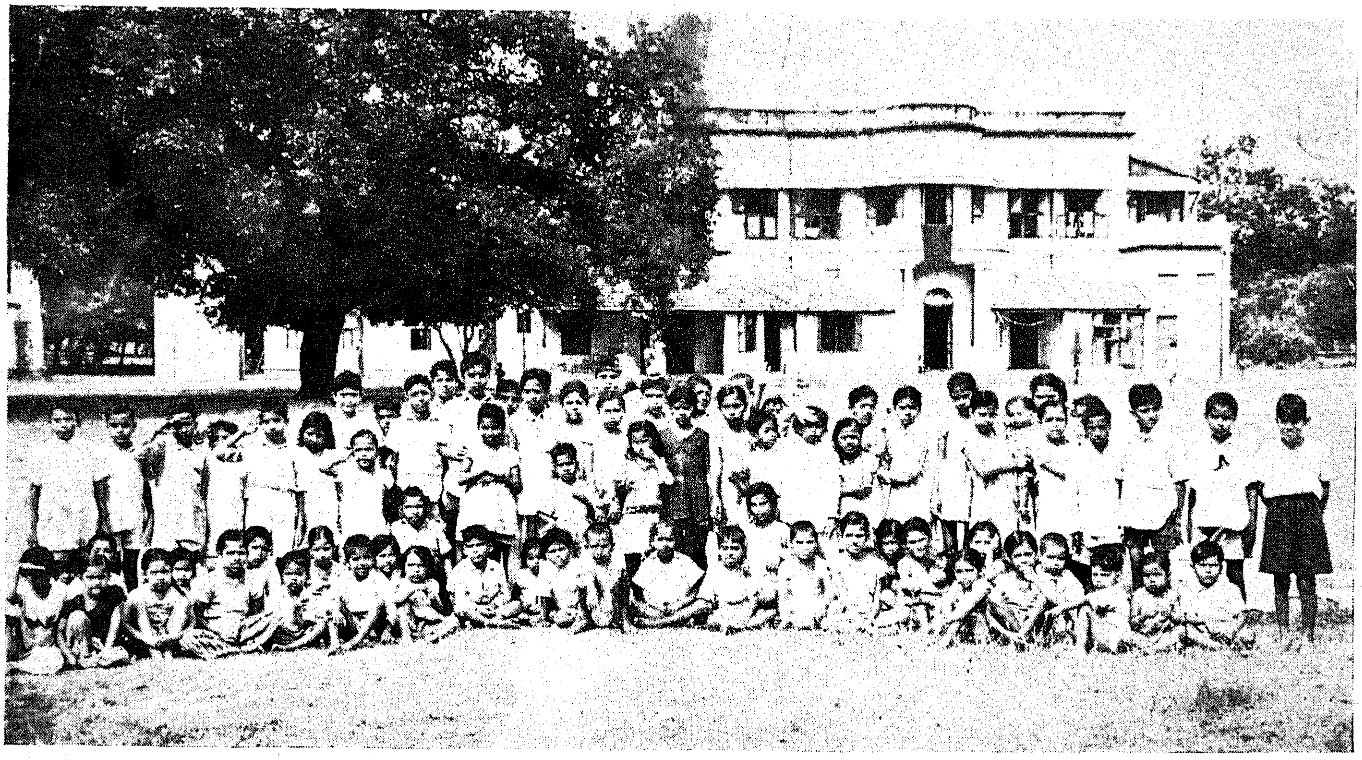


The Refugee Camp at Saidapet
(Main Building)

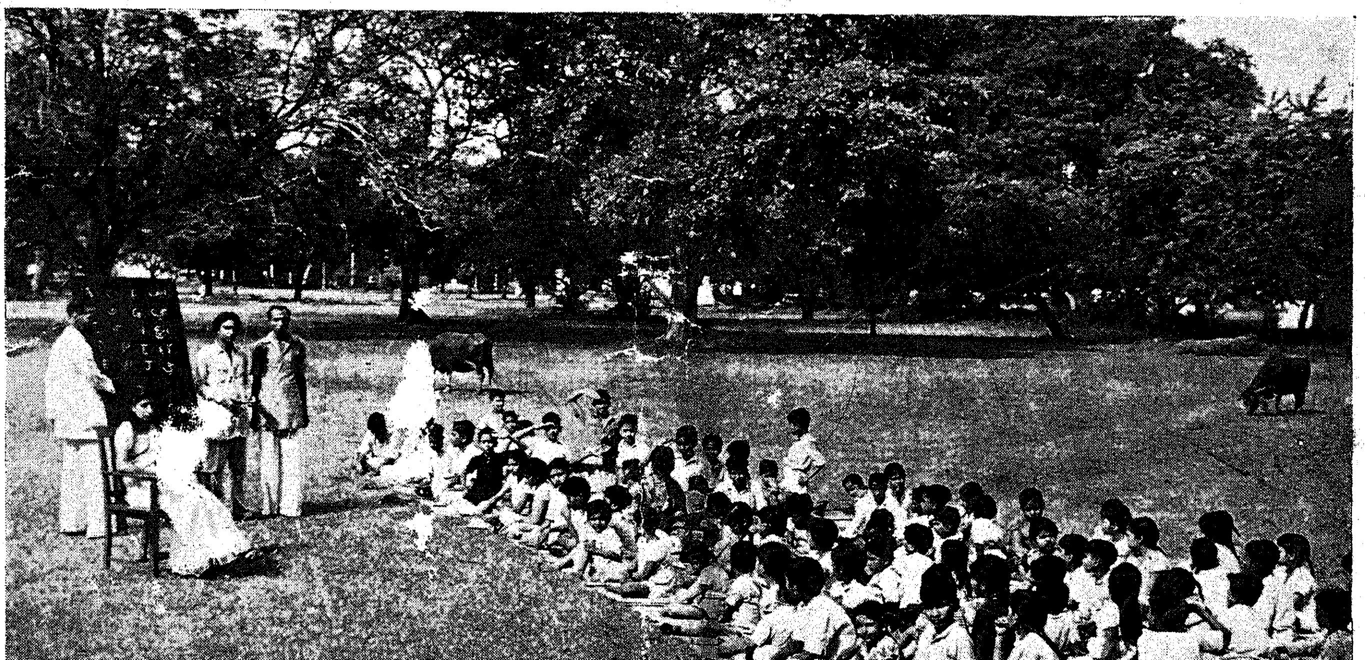
A group of Punjabee refugee women
with children

A typical refugee from the north. In his old age he had to leave his native village and join the ranks of the refugees

Registered No. M-4767.



Refugee children at Cutteral's Gardens, Kilpauk



Education has not been forgotten for the refugees. The picture shows a refugee teacher taking a class

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